UEDA Rinko
KOREMORI!!
WHY IS KOREMORI HERE..?!
リョウ
Ryo
3
No.14
YOU, KOREMORI! YOU DARED TO FOLLOW US HERE...!!
BENKEI!!

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THIS PERSON IS FROM THE HEISHI...!!
I'M SORRY, HIDEHIRA-SAMA.
BENKEI HAS BEEN VERY TIRED
RYO-DONO ...
AND BEING CHASED BY THE HEISHI HAS MADE HIM CRANKY...
OUBAI IS A SOLDIER OF HEISHI, YOU MEAN...?
NO, HE ISN'T A SOLDIER ...
THIS PERSON IS THE GRANDSON OF KIYOMORI!
Ahahahaha
EXCUSE ME...
Haha.
I'VE NEVER THOUGHT THAT I LOOKED LIKE THE HEIR OF THE HEISHI, EVEN IN MY DREAMS...

Whisper
LOOK AT THEIR CONDUCT DURING A CELEBRATION.
IGNORE IT, BENKEI...
THAT'S USHIWAKA'S RIGHT HAND MAN?
Whisper
EVEN IF THEY DECIDED TO SEND FOOT SOLDIERS,
YES, BENKEI.
HOW COULD THEY SEND THEIR HEIR TO A DISTANT PLACE LIKE THIS?
THEY AREN'T LOOK-ALIKES.
YES, HIDEHIRA-SAMA.
YOU'RE DISMISSED, OUBAI.
PLAY US A TUNE AGAIN.
BUT WHY IS HE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS..?
HE IS KOREMORI
IS HE CHASING ME...?!

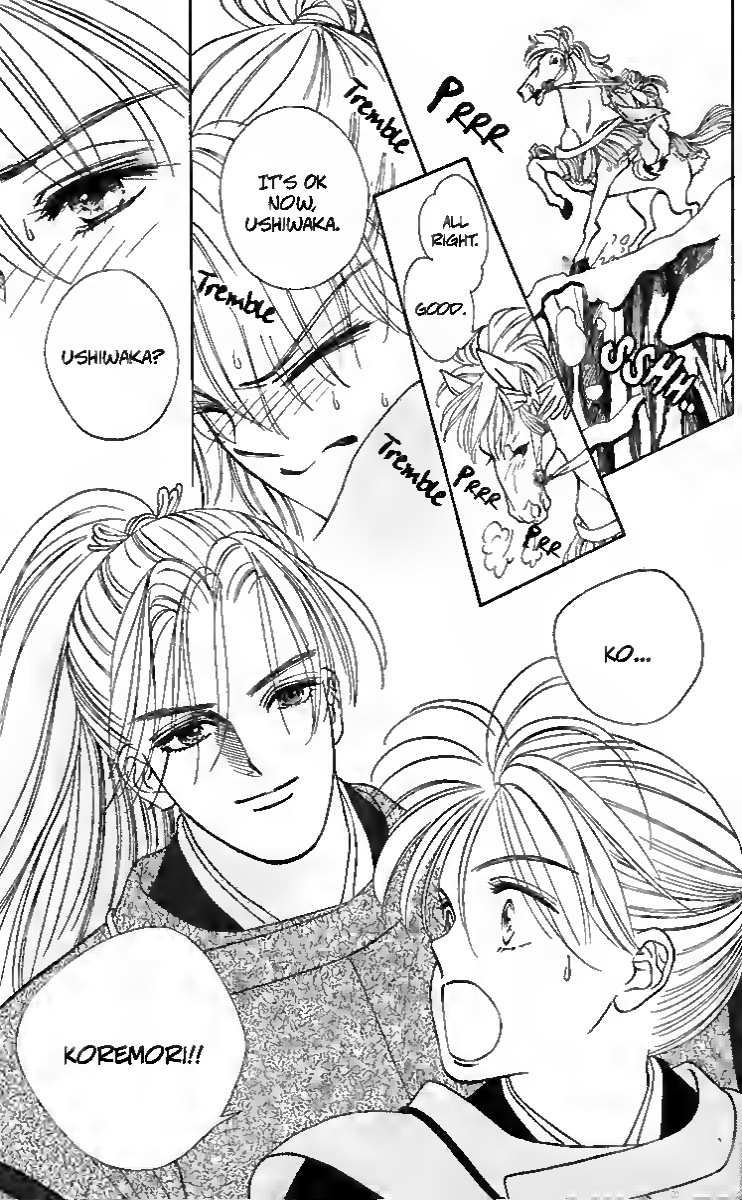
I DON'T SEE RYO-DONO!
HMM? AH, THAT.
SHE SAID SHE'S GOING TO A RANCH WITH YASUHIRA-SAN.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, BENKEI?
GET UP, PLEASE, AOI-DONO!!
AOI-DONO!
WITH YASUHIRA-DONO...?!
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT HEISHI'S CHASING YOU AROUND HERE.
THAT OUBAI FROM LAST NIGHT WASN'T KOREMORI, EITHER.
THEY'RE JUST LOOK-ALIKES.
HIDEHIRA-SAMA LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE RYO'S GRANDPA, TOO, YOU KNOW.
THAT FLUTE PLAYER CERTAINLY IS KOREMORI!!

THIS HORSE... FOR ME...?
IT'S A GIFT FOR OUR MEETING, PLEASE ACCEPT IT.
THIS IS A STALLION, CONSIDERED THE BEST ON THIS RANCH.
...ALTHOUGH I'M REALLY GLAD...
BUT?
I CAN'T GET ON A HORSE ALONE.
YOU CAN'T...
...RIDE A HORSE?!
DID YOU HEAR THAT?
THE GENJI'S YOUNG LORD CAN'T RIDE A HORSE BY HIMSELF.
Wa ha ha ha
Pissed

WOULD THAT BE OK? THAT HORSE IS A WILD ONE, NO ONE CAN BREAK IT...
SHUT UP!!
YASUHIRA SAMA...
USHIWAKA-DONO, DON'T WORRY. THAT HORSE IS BROKEN IN, GOOD FOR BEGINNERS.
THAT'S ENOUGH WILL-POWER.
B-BUT, IF I PRACTICE...
I'LL PROVE HE IS ONLY A SON OF GENJI WHO DOESN'T EVEN KNOW THE MEANING OF "WARRIOR".
HUT!
NEIGHHHH
WAH!
JUMP
AHH!
WAIT, HOLD ON...!
PLOP
Waha ha ha
YOU'RE QUITE SKILLFUL AT RIDING HORSES, USHIWAKA-DONO!
Plop
Plop
!!
PULL

WAHH!
PLOP
THUD
HOW THE HECK IS THIS A TAME HORSE?
THAT YASUHIRA PUNK!
!!
A CLIFF!
THUD THUD
BENKEI!!
Clop
Clop

Thud Thud
Thud Thud
CLOP CLOP
IT'S OVER NOW!
CLOP CLOP
SWISH
WOH!
WOH!
Grab


USHIWAKA?
Tremble
IT'S OK NOW, USHIWAKA.
Tremble
Tremble
PRRR
ALL RIGHT.
GOOD.
PRRR
Prrr
SSHH.
KO...
KOREMORI!!

YOU'RE KOREMORI, RIGHT?
I'M OUBAI HERE.
I'VE COME HERE,
BECAUSE OF YOU.
BUT, THEN WHY ARE YOU...?
Clop Clop
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, USHIWAKA-SAMA?
YASUHIRA-SAMA! WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
IF I HADN'T FOUND USHIWAKA-SAMA, HE WOULD HAVE FALLEN DOWN THE CLIFF WITH THIS WILD HORSE!

W... WHAT?
YOU DARE TALK TO ME THAT WAY, MEAGER FLUTE PLAYER THAT YOU ARE!
I'M TALKING TO YOU AS ANOTHER HUMAN BEING.
IF HIDEHIRA-SAMA HEARS YOU LET USHIWAKA-SAMA HAVE THIS WILD HORSE...
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SAFE, EVEN IF IT'S YOU, YASUHIRA-SAMA!!
ARE... YOU THREATENING ME?!
THREATEN-ING... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IF YASUHIRA SAMA IS THE HEIR OF THE FUJIWARA...
I ONLY EXPECT YOU TO RESPECT THAT AND CONDUCT YOURSELF ACCORDINGLY.

Thud
Thud
RYO-DONO, ARE YOU OK?!
KORE-MORI...
YEAH, BENKEI...
LET'S GO BACK!
KOREMORI!!
WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE WITH RYO-DONO!?
OUBAI SAVED ME FROM FALLING DOWN A CLIFF WITH A HORSE!
I TOLD YOU, THIS PERSON ISN'T KOREMORI!
NO, BENKEI!

PUT THAT DANGEROUS THING AWAY RIGHT NOW!!
OUBAI SAVED MY LIFE.
NO, IT'S A DIFFERENT PERSON.
HE'S NOT KOREMORI ...?
USHIWAKA-SAMA, WOULD YOU LIKE TO TOUR HIRAIZUMI WHILE YOU'RE OUT HERE?
I'LL BE YOUR GUIDE.
SH-SHALL WE...?
THEN, I WILL COME, TOO...
BENKEI DOESN'T NEED TO COME.
Plop
Plop
RYO-DONO...

WHY DOES THAT BENKEI PERSON CALL USHIWAKA RYO?
AH... RYO WAS MY NAME BEFORE I BECAME USHIWAKA.
ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T WANT TO LIE TO BENKEI.
IF IT WAS KNOWN YOU WERE KOREMORI, YOU'D BE WANDERING IN HELL BY NOW.
WHY DID YOU SAY I WAS OUBAI..?
FINE. I WILL ALSO CALL YOU RYO!
WHAT?
RYO...
IT'S A NICE NAME.

Translation: Sapp + little help from Yuwa
Scans: MiaHoneyDa
Edits: Yunie (cleaning) & Ink (text)
Proofreading: Centime

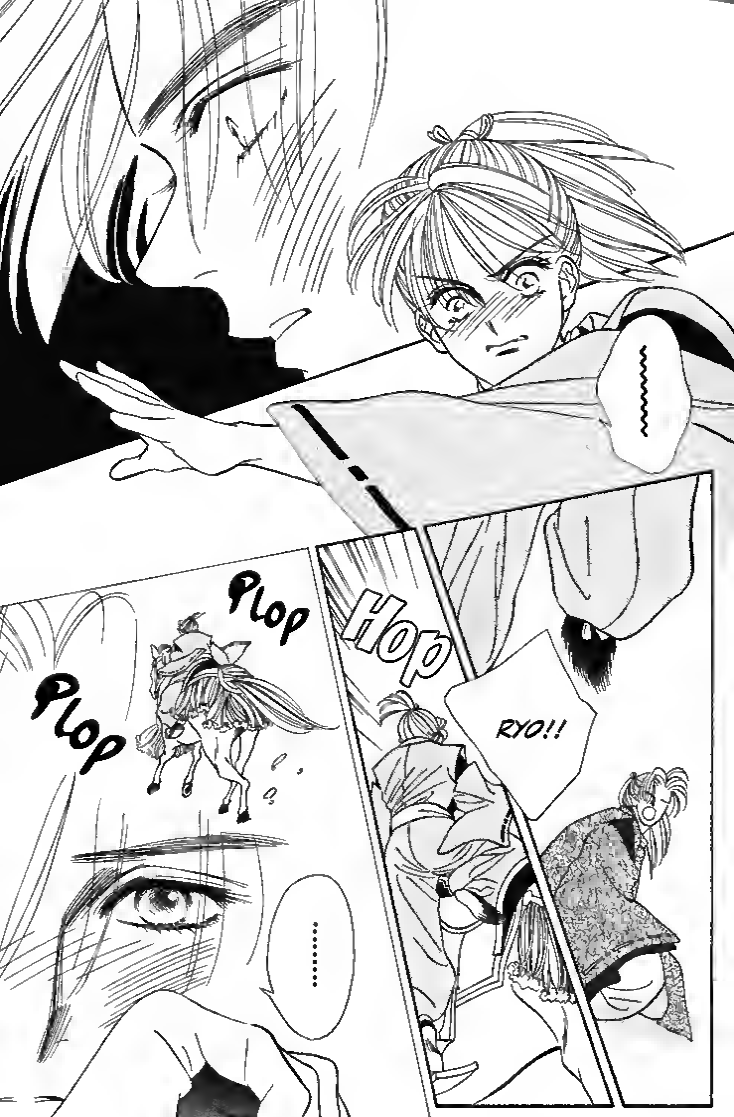
THEN WHY IS RYO-DONO COVERING UP FOR HIM!?
OUBA!
Swoosh
Slash
RYO-DONO!!
THAT BASTARD IS DEFINITELY KOREMORI!

I HAD NO IDEA OUSHUU WAS SUCH A PROSPEROUS REGION.
HOW DID YOU FIND OUT WE WERE COMING HERE?
IF THE MERCHANT KICHIJI ACCOMPANIED YOU, I THOUGHT YOU'D GO TO HIRAIZUMI FOR SURE.
WHEN I FOUND OUT YOU WEREN'T HERE YET WHEN I GOT HERE, I WAS VERY ANXIOUS...
AH, THAT'S BECAUSE I STOPPED AT KISO...
BUT, WHEN I SAW YOU YESTER-DAY..
I WAS HAPPY I FOLLOWED MY HEART.
FOLLOWED YOUR HEART?

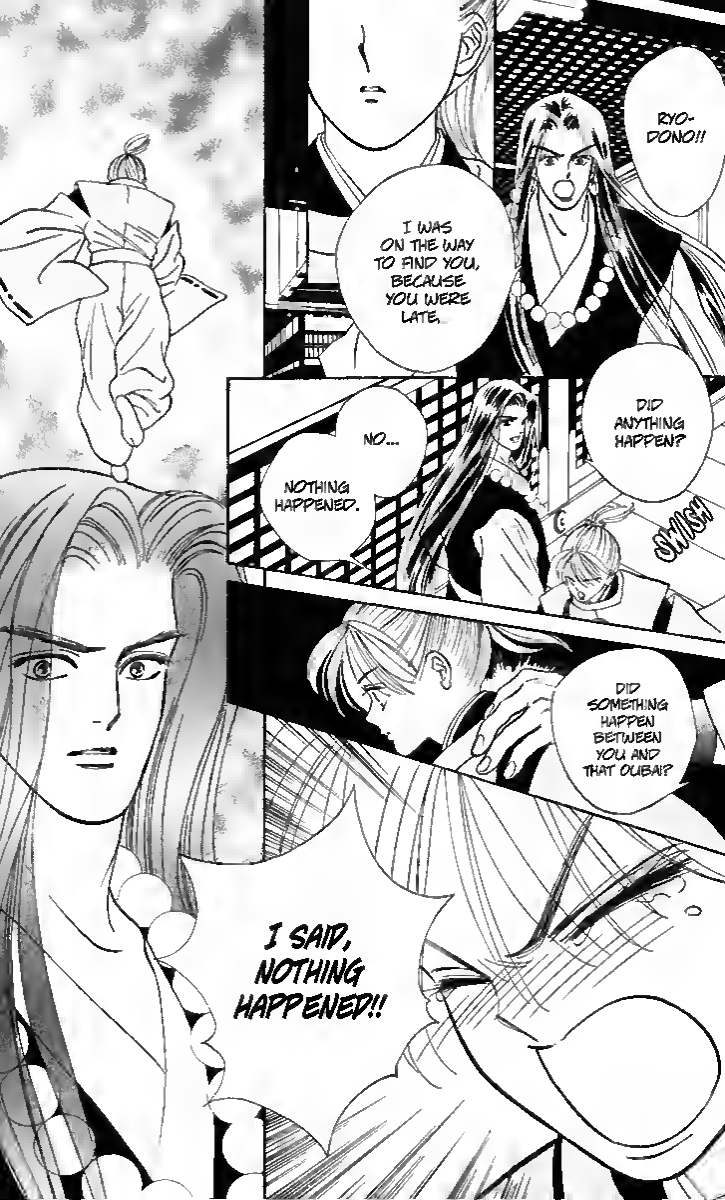
I LIKE RYO.
OW—
ARE YOU OK, RYO?
WHOMP
HUH?
SQIP
RYO!?

IT'S ALL COVERED WITH SNOW.
PULL
!!
IF I CAN HAVE RYO FOR MY WIFE,
I CAN THROW AWAY THE POSITION AS HEIR TO THE HEISHI AND THE NAME OF KOREMORI.

HEY... WHAT TREACHEROUS THING ARE YOU SAYING
FIRST...
I TOLD YOU MANY TIMES I'M NOT A WOMAN.
A MAN'S LIPS
CANNOT BE THIS SWEET...
SLAP



#etc@irchighway.net


RYO-DONO!!
I WAS ON THE WAY TO FIND YOU, BECAUSE YOU WERE LATE.
DID ANYTHING HAPPEN?
NO...
NOTHING HAPPENED.
SWISH
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND THAT OUBAI?
I SAID, NOTHING HAPPENED!!

OUBAI.
WHAT DID YOU DO TO RYO-DONO?
NOTHING.
DON'T LIE!!
SLAM
I HELD HER TIGHT,
AND KISSED HER.

ANGER
YOU...!
I HAVE FEELINGS FOR RYO-DONO!!
I ONLY WANTED HER TO KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT HER.

THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS AS A VASSAL!

Brought to you from Uerin's small room - Part I

Wow~ It's a bonus page after 7 months! In volume 2, I got sick while drawing this page. I'm sorry I couldn't do this page... ()

I'm really happy some of the readers like this section.

I was taken to the ER on an ambulance early last spring. I also had to cancel two deadlines for *Margaret*. I'm really sorry for readers and the editing staff.

Right now, I've recovered my health and am determined to work harder than before!!

When I got on to the ambulance for the first time in my life, I was very excited, even if I was in much pain

But since I don't want to get hospitalized again, even if I pass out, I promised to myself that I won't call an ambulance again!!

Ah! How fortunate it is to have a normal (healthy) body ~

After I got sick, I finally realized that I'm also old now. Did I ramble too much?!

MARGARET COMICS

リョウ Ryo

3

上田倫子

Ryo

3

UEDA Rinko

2537☆
集英社

Message from the Author

♡"I've always loved to draw ever since I was small, and that's why I became a mangaka. These days, however, since I started working on Ryo, I love thinking of the plot even more than drawing. How unique it would be if my manga could change from the "mainly-for viewing" manga to "mainly-for reading" manga. I'd like to try hard to be able to draw manga like that."

(UEDA Rinko)

LOVE
M.C.
9608

上田倫子の傑作コミックス

君にボタンの涙
同じ夢をかぞえて
プリズムが恋人 全2巻
キッスは瞳にして 全10巻
新学園天国 全7巻
リョウ ①~⑨

リュウ
Ryo
No.15

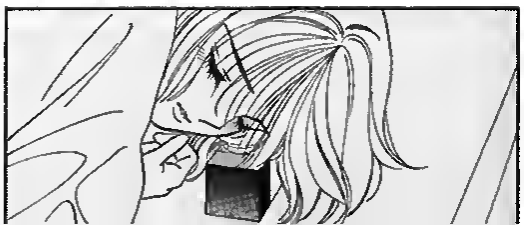
... IT'S TRUE THAT I DON'T HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO DECIDE ON MY MASTER'S LOVE,
BUT USHIWAKA-DONO IS GENJI'S HEIR.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR A MUSICIAN LIKE YOU TO GET ALONG.
RYO-DONO IS NOT THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO CARES ABOUT ONE'S STATU

GRAB
!?
RYO-DONO...?
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S GENJI'S HEIR, SHE STILL HAS THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE HER OWN PATH...
I FORBID IT!
IT'S ONLY A NAME, WHY ARE YOU GETTING SO ANGRY?
RYO IS SIMPLY THE NAME THAT USHIKAWA USED BEFORE.
PUNCH
I, BENKEI, FORBID YOU TO CALL HER 'RYO-DONO'!

YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT RYO-DONO'S PAST...
ISN'T THAT BIG GUY USHIKAIJA-SAMA'S BODY-GUARD?
Crowd
THAT BIG GUY IS BEATING OUBAI UP!
Crowd
HOW DARE HE TREAT SOMEONE WHOM OUR LORD FAVOURS LIKE THAT?

#etc@irc.irchighway.net

Translation: Baboonbutte
+ little help from ^_^Tanpopo
Scans: MiaHoneyDo
Edits: Yunie & Ink
Proofreading: Centime



I WILL NEVER LET OUBAI TOUCH A SINGLE HAIR ON YOUR HEAD.
RYO-DONO...!
EMBRACED AND KISSED HER...

Bdump Bdump Bdump
Bdump Bdump Bdump
Get up!
OH!
HUH?
This is
G-GOOD MORNING, BENKEI.
AH, NEVER MIND.
BENKEI~♡
WHAT— WHAT IS THIS...

AACHOO
WERE YOU BESIDE ME ALL THIS TIME?
THAT... ER...
S-SORRY, I...
Slide
Bang
CLANG
IT IT DOESN'T MATTER
My reputation
ALL BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T WRAP YOURSELF UP AND FELL ASLEEP.
BENKEI, YOU'VE CAUGHT A COLD.
NO! THIS IS AN ORDER!
IT DOESN'T MATTER, IT'S JUST A MINOR COLD.
sniffle
TODAY YOU SHOULD JUST REST.
wipe wipe
I...
I WON'T GO OUT WITH OUBAI EVER AGAIN, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY.
... YES.

YASUHIRA-SAMA INVITES YOU TO JOIN HIM IN SWORD PRACTISE.
USHIKAWA-SAMA,

!!

SORRY, I'M VERY BUSY RIGHT NOW;
PLEASE TELL HIM THAT I CANNOT JOIN HIM
YES.. UNDER-STOOD...

YES! THAT'S IT!

IT'S SNOWING AGAIN
THIS TEMPER-ATURE..
IT'S NO WONDER EVEN BENKEI CAUGHT A COLD.

GOOD MORNING, USHIKAWA-SAMA.
GOOD MORNING

IT SEEMS VERY WARM

IT'S MY FIRST TIME MAKING THINGS OUT OF FUR,
I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I CAN MAKE IT.
OW-
sew
sew
sew
sew
sew
sew
PIERCE
OUCH!
BENKEI...
I WONDER IF HE WILL LIKE IT
sew
sew
sew
WHAT!?
USHIKAWA-DONO IS SEWING?
YES,
AND HE LOOKED EXACTLY LIKE A WOMAN.
FWSH
FWSH
DITCHING SWORD PRACTICE TO SEW, WHAT KIND OF HEIR IS HE!?

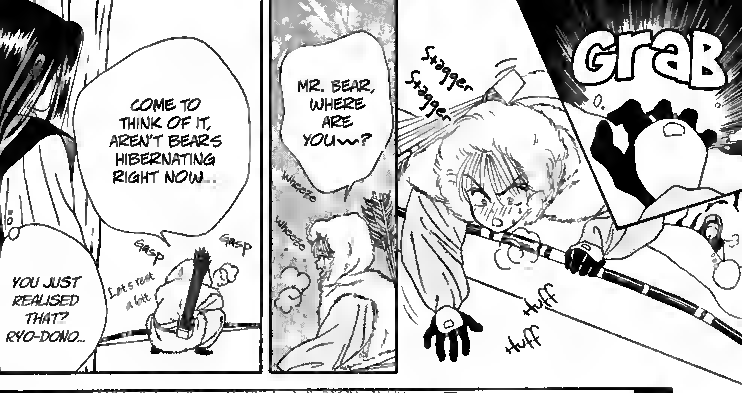
IS IT TRUE?
!!
FLAP
THAT, THAT FUR,
YOU STARTLED ME BARGING IN LIKE THAT.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THAT'S THE FUR FROM THE FIRST BEAR I KILLED WHEN I WAS EIGHT YEARS OLD!
WHAT!?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, USHIKAWA-DONO!?

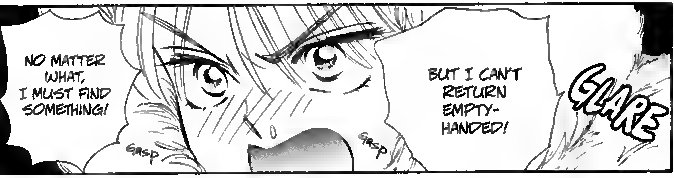
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU APOLOGIZE, IT WON'T PUT IT BACK TOGETHER!
SORRY!
S-S-
AAHHH—
IT'S ALL IN BITS NOW...
HE SAID THAT THERE WERE PLENTY IN THE STORAGE ROOM, AND I COULD TAKE WHATEVER I NEEDED
I GOT HIDEHIRA-SAMA'S PERMISSION,
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT IT WAS SUCH AN IMPORTANT FUR...
I'M VERY SORRY!
MY FATHER.. HE...
IF IT'S FUR YOU WANT,
WHY DON'T YOU GO HUNTING, USHIKAWA-DONO!?
EVEN IF MY FATHER ALLOWS IT,

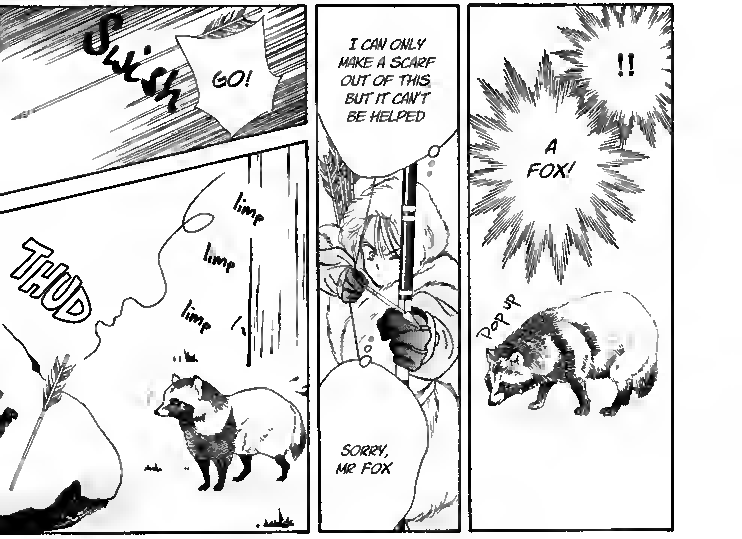
BENKEI-DONO, YOU ARE BETTER NOW?
I'M NOT ILL ENOUGH TO STAY IN MY BED.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE USHIKAWA-DONO IS?
IF YOU WANT TO FIND USHIKAWA-DONO, HE WENT HUNTING.
HUNTING?
WITH YASUHIRA-SAMA?
NO,
HE WENT ALONE WITH BOW AND ARROW TO HUNT BEAR...
BEAR?
THIS IS EXPECTED FROM GENJI'S HEIR.
NORMALLY, COMMON HUNTERS WOULD GO IN GROUPS OF AROUND TEN.
BENKEI-DONO, YOU MUST BE PROUD—
BENKEI-DONO?

CRUNCH
CRUNCH
.....
This is fug fur coat borrowed from Hidetsune sama →
WHAT... OH, IT'S A RABBIT.
startled
RUSTLE
!!
HUNTING ALONE!
Huff Huff
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING, RYO-DONO..!
Run
Huff
Run
Thump
I CAME IN A MOMENT OF BRAVERY
BUT CAN I REALLY GET A BEAR?
Thump
Thump
I CANNOT BE SCARED!
BECAUSE I CAME TO GET FUR FOR BENKEI'S VEST!
Crunch
Crunch
Huff
Huff
!
RYO—

Bounce! Bounce!
Bunny, bounce, bounce~
HUH?
Sunsh
IS SOMEONE THERE?
IF I GET DISCOVERED NOW...
DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO COME OUT?
SHOO!
SHOO!
...I WILL DEFINITELY BE SCOLDED
Hyuuuuu~
MUST BE MY IMAGINATION...
Bunny! Don't go!
HE SAID SHE WANTED TO HUNT BEAR. DID HE MEAN HUNT BUNNIES INSTEAD?
AH!
I CAME HERE TO HUNT BEAR! IT'S NO TIME TO PLAY WITH BUNNIES!
BEAR!
BEAR~
Hunt Hunt Hunt Hunt
BEAR!
Panic Panic
RYO-DONO!


COME TO THINK OF IT, AREN'T BEARS HIBERNATING RIGHT NOW...
YOU JUST REALISED THAT? RYO-DONO..
GASP
GASP
Let's think a little
MR. BEAR, WHERE ARE YOU~~?
Whoosh
Whoosh
Stagger
Stagger
GRAB
huff
huff


NO MATTER WHAT, I MUST FIND SOMETHING!
GASP
GASP
BUT I CAN'T RETURN EMPTY-HANDED!
GLARE


SWISH
GO!
THUD
limp
limp
limp
I CAN ONLY MAKE A SCARF OUT OF THIS, BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED
SORRY, MR FOX
!!
A FOX!
POP

I SHOULD PRACTICE MORE AND COME AGAIN..
AND I HIT SOME RANDOM THING..
IT RAN AWAY~~
AH!
Hee

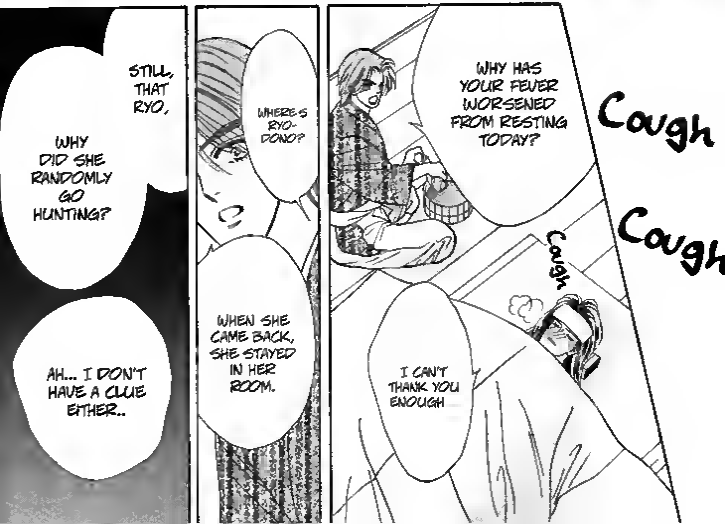
RYO-
DONO!!
HUH?
GRR
!!
SWISH

PIERCE
GRRR
SWOOSH
WHOMP

Silen.....ce
.....
COULD IT BE...
FROM THE ARROW I SHOT BEFORE...?
IS IT DEAD?
DEAD...
Waah
AARGH!
AARG!
Wah

Swish
WHAT DO I DO NOW?
I'LL GO GET SOMEONE.
Waah
...cruelly killed a...
That kind of long arrow...
I thought I heard Benkei's voice.
BUT, USHIKAWA CANNOT BE A WOMAN...
Run Run Run
USHIKAWA-SAMA KILLED A BEAR!
MY LORD!
YES, MY LORD.
USHIKAWA IS A WOMAN?
NOT ONLY IN APPEARANCE, BUT IT IS ALSO PROVEN BY HER SKIPPING SWORD PRACTICE TO SEW.
IF THOSE ARE NOT WOMEN'S ACTIONS, THEN IT IS STRANGE.

THIS ENORMOUS BEAR, YOU KILLED IT ALONE?
Y-YES.
AS EXPECTED OF USHIKAI-DONO.
SO AMAZING.
YOU ARE DEFINITELY THE SON OF GENJI.
DO YOU AGREE, YASUHIRA?
HUH?
YES..

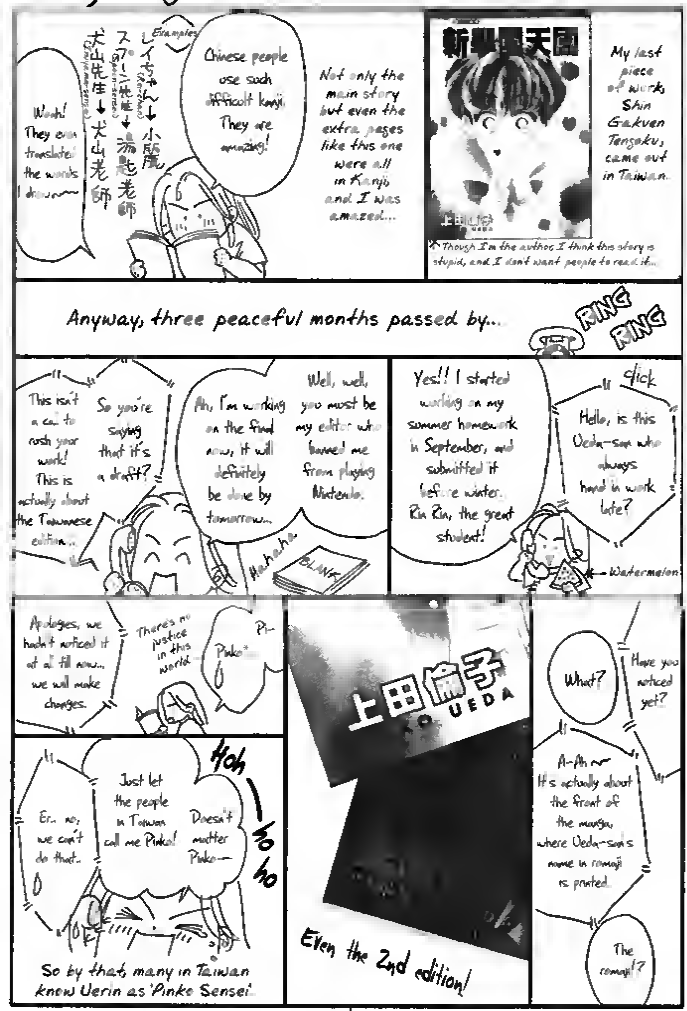

WHY HAS YOUR FEVER WORSENED FROM RESTING TODAY?
Cough
Cough
Cough
I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH
WHERE'S RYO-DONO?
WHEN SHE CAME BACK, SHE STAYED IN HER ROOM.
STILL, THAT RYO,
WHY DID SHE RANDOMLY GO HUNTING?
AH... I DON'T HAVE A CLUE EITHER..

TAP
TAP
TAP
BENKEI!
TRY THIS!
RYO-DONO.
I'VE COMPLETELY RECOVERED FROM MY FEVER.
BENKEI!
DOES IT FIT?
I ALREADY MADE IT EXTRA LARGE.
RYO-DONO...
WHAT?
YOU WENT OUT HUNTING
BECAUSE OF THIS?
THAT'S RIGHT!

SORRY BENKEI,
I DID SOME-THING SELFISH AGAIN...
.....
BUT, I WAS VERY LUCKY!
JUST PULLED THE BOW,
LIKE THIS--
I'M VERY HAPPY...
HEY, HEY, BENKEI,
THIS IS NOTHING TO CRY ABOUT!
BENKEI...?
DON'T CRY,
BENKEI.

DON'T CRY...

Brought to you from Uerin's small room - Part II


Examples
Chinese people use such difficult kanji. They are amazing!
Wow! They even translated the words I drew~
Not only the main story but even the extra pages like this one were all in Kanji and I was amazed...
My last piece of work, Shin Gakuen Tengoku, came out in Taiwan.
*Though I'm the author, I think this story is stupid, and I don't want people to read it...
Anyway, three peaceful months passed by...
RING RING
click
Hello, is this Ueda-san who always hand in work late?
Watermelon
Yes!! I started working on my summer homework in September, and submitted it before winter. Rin Rin, the great student!
Ah, I'm working on the final now, it will definitely be done by tomorrow...
Well, well, you must be my editor who barred me from playing Nintendo.
Hahaha
BLANK
This isn't a car to rush your work! This is actually about the Taiwanese edition...
So you're saying that it's a draft?
At-dodges, we hadn't noticed it at all till now... we will make changes.
There's no justice in this world!
Pi-
Piko*
Oh ho ho
Just let the people in Taiwan call me Piko!
Er... no, we can't do that..
Doesn't matter Piko—
So by that, many in Taiwan know Uerin as 'Pinko Sensei'.
上田倫子 UEDA
Even the 2nd edition!
What?
Have you noticed yet?
A-Ah~ It's actually about the front of the manga, where Ueda-san's name in romaji is printed.
The romaji!?
Ah, no, it's actually 'Uepin'. La la

*Tanpopo's note. Pinko Izumi is an actress, in the famous TV drama *Watarui Seken wa Oni Dorake (There are Sufferings Everywhere)*
Pinko is considered to be a funny name.

BENKEI, YOU'RE DRESSED NICELY.
RYO-DONO MADE IT FOR ME.
I MADE SOMETHING FOR YOU TOO, AOI.
HOW COME ONLY BENKEI GETS—
NOT FAIR
Bear mittens
Aoi
Kawaii kawaii
THEY EVEN HAVE CLAWS. ♫
I WANT A VEST, TOO!
MEN HAVE LITTLE BODY FAT SO THEY GET COLD EASILY.
UNLIKE YOU...
REALIZATION
OOPS I HOPE NOBODY HEARD THAT..
DON'T WORRY. THERE'S NO ONE AROUND.
USHIWAKA IS A WOMAN!?

Reo
No.16

BUT I HEARD THAT HE CAUGHT A BEAR ON HIS OWN...
AND DOESN'T PRACTICE SWORDS-MANSHIP.
HE SEWS.
YASUHIRA-SAMA INSISTS THAT USHIWAKA-DONO IS A WOMAN.
BUT WHICH IS THE TRUTH!?
INDEED, HE DOES NOT LOOK MASCULINE.

THIS IS FOR ME...?
THE FUR IS FROM THE BEAR THAT I CAUGHT THE OTHER DAY.
I HOPE THAT IT WILL BE USEFUL.
TH-THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
HM?
YES.
SO IT IS TRUE THAT YOU SEW...
I HOPE THAT I WILL NOT UPSET YOU BY SAYING THIS...
BUT THERE IS AN ODD RUMOR GOING AROUND THAT YOU ARE A WOMAN.
STARTLED

Translation: Yuwa
Scans: MiaHoneyDo
Edits: Technu (cleaning) & Ink (text)
Proofreading: Centime

Ba-dmp
UH... UM.
AS IT IS QUITE IMPOSSIBLE FOR A WOMAN TO CAPTURE SUCH A LARGE BEAR.
I DO NOT BELIEVE THE RUMOR.
Ba-dmp
Ba-dmp
Ba-dmp
I...
"I WOULD ADVISE AGAINST REVEALING TO OTHERS THAT YOU ARE A WOMAN..."
grit
I AM A MAN.
I AM NOT A WOMAN!!
HUGE LIE

*Genpuku is the coming of age ceremony for boys.

*Eboshioya is the man who gives the Genpuku recipient a new name.

I HAVE AN IDEA USHIWAKA-DONO.
I BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE NOT YET HAD YOUR GENPUKU* CEREMONY.
WHAT DO YOU SAY TO MY BECOMING YOUR EBO-SHIOYA*?
GENPUKU...?
EBOSHIOYA...?
IF YOU GO THROUGH GENPUKU, IT WILL STOP ALL RUMORS ABOUT YOU BEING A WOMAN.
WHAT DO YOU SAY, USHIWAKA-DONO?

#etc@irc.irchighway.net

What!?
YOU'RE GOING TO GO THROUGH GENPUKU!?
ARE YOU SERIOUS, RYO!?
YEP.
sweat
sweat
Is it that shocking?
RYO, DO YOU KNOW THE MEANING OF GENPUKU!?
D-DOES IT HURT!?
Then I don't want to
What!?
IT IS A CEREMONY TO ANNOUNCE YOUR MATURITY AS A MAN.
NO.
B-BUT THERE'S A RUMOR THAT I MIGHT BE A GIRL, SO...
THEN ARE YOU GOING TO BECOME "YOSHITSUNE," AND LIVE AS A MAN!?

YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN!
THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO GO THROUGH GENPUKU!
NO!
IF I DON'T PRETEND TO BE A MAN, I'LL BE FORCED TO MARRY KOREMORI...
I BET YOU'RE GOING TO REGRET IT!!
WHAT...
IT'LL BE OK EVEN IF I GO THROUGH GENPUKU, WON'T IT?
BENKEI.
IF THAT IS WHAT RYO-DONO HAS DECIDED, THEN I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER TO SAY.
BENKEI...

GENPUKU IS BASICALLY JUST A COMING OF AGE CEREMONY, ISN'T IT?
IF IT'S JUST FOR SHOW,
THEN IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT SOMETHING INSIDE OF ME WILL CHANGE BECAUSE OF IT
WHAT NAME...
...SHALL I GIVE YOU?

YOSHITSUNE.
YOSHI-TSUNE.
THAT IS A GOOD NAME.
YOU ARE THE 9TH CHILD OF LORD YOSHITOMO,
AND THEREFORE YOU ARE KUROU* YOSHI-TSUNE.

Kurou means ninth son.

FROM HERE ON, YOU WILL BE
KUROU YOSHITSUNE MINAMOTO.
WHEW, IT'S FINALLY OVER!
Twirl
Twirl
SO GENPUKU IS JUST FOR SHOW AFTER ALL.
IT DIDN'T HURT AT ALL.
I WONDER ...
YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, AOI.
DON'T YOU THINK SO, BENKEI?
.....
JEEZ,
BENKEI.
BENKEI!!
HAPPY ...?
YOSHITSUNE-SAMA,
YOUR SERVICE IS BEING REQUESTED.
AREN'T YOU HAPPY THAT I'VE BECOME YOSHITSUNE?
Y-YES?

I HAVE GATHERED THESE MAIDENS FOR YOU, YOSHITSUNE-DONO.
PLEASE, CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITE.
WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I CHOOSE . . .!?
SHE WILL BECOME OFFICIAL.
WHISPER!
OFFICIAL ...?
SHE'S GOING TO BECOME YOUR WIFE.
MY WIFE!?
TH-THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
I'M ONLY 17.
YOU ARE ALREADY 17.

I REFUSE
TO MARRY SOMEONE THAT I'M NOT IN LOVE WITH...!!
I AM NOT AWARE OF HOW SUCH THINGS ARE DONE IN KYOTO,
BUT HERE, IN OUSHUU, IT IS QUITE NATURAL TO WELCOME A WIFE IMMEDIATELY AFTER GENPUKU.
THEN DO YOU HAVE ANOTHER MAIDEN IN MIND?
N-NO...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT
A CONCUBINE!?
THEN ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS MAKE HER A CONCUBINE.
IF THERE IS ANOTHER MAIDEN WHOM YOU LIKE,
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE TO DECIDE ON AN OFFICIAL WIFE RIGHT NOW...
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!!
I DON'T WANT A WIFE OR A CONCUBINE!!
YASUHIRA IS RIGHT.
HOWEVER, YOU MUST CHOOSE A MAIDEN FROM AN HONORABLE FAMILY AS YOUR OFFICIAL WIFE.

ACK!
WHAT TYPE DO YOU PREFER?
WOULD YOU LIKE PALE, PLUMP MAIDENS?
OR SLENDER ...
I... I'M AFRAID I CAN'T.
Oh, no!
CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS BENKEI?
THEN I SHALL GATHER A DIFFERENT GROUP OF MAIDENS TOMORROW.
WHAT!?
WHAT?
AH, DID YOU NOT FIND ANYONE TO YOUR LIKING?
Kukuku
THAT'S RIGHT!
MMRMM
YES, JUST THE OTHER DAY, I SAW HIM EMBRACING HIS SERVANT...
I AM NOT HOMO-SEXUAL!!
D-DO YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT HE PREFERS MEN?
WHAT!?
PERHAPS
YOSHITSUNE-DONO DOES NOT LIKE WOMEN?
THAT I'M GAY!?
THEN WHY DO YOU OBJECT TO HAVING A WIFE?
Yoshitsune-dono prefers men?
I... I CAN'T...
WHY IS IT?

I CAN'T KEEP THIS UP ANYMORE!!
BECAUSE I'M A WOMAN!
THAT'S WHY I CANNOT MARRY!
Gasp!
A WOMAN!?
I KNEW IT!

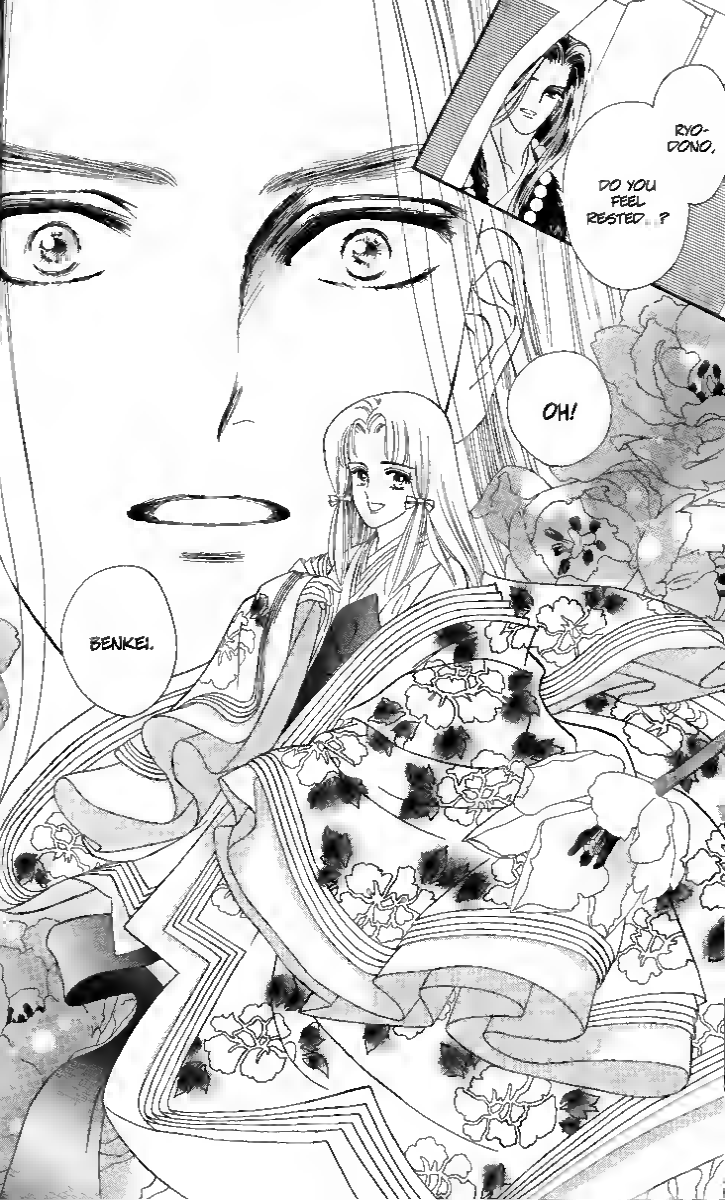
YOSHITSUNE-DONO IS...
...A WOMAN!?
I'M SORRY THAT I'VE BEEN LYING TO YOU...
IT IS JUST AS I'VE BEEN SAYING, IS IT NOT!?
THIS GENJI LORD IS A DESPICABLE LIAR.
PLEASE!
THERE IS A REASON BEHIND ALL THIS!
YOSHITSUNE-DONO IS THE ONLY REMAINING DAUGHTER OF LORD YOSHITOMO OF THE GENJI.
SHE HAS BEEN DISGUISING HERSELF AS A MAN...
THE HEISHI...
...IN ORDER TO AVOID KIYOMORI'S SCHEME TO MARRY HER TO KOREMORI OF THE HEISHI, AND THUS TAKE CONTROL OF THE GENJI THROUGH HER!!
...CONTROLLING THE GENJI!?

IS... IS THIS THE TRUTH, YOSHITSUNE-DONO...?
YES...
HORRIFY-ING.
HOW...
!!
MY LORD!!
MY LORD, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT...?
YOSHITSUNE-DONO, DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!!
ALTHOUGH IT MAY HAVE BEEN TO AVOID KIYOMORI'S SCHEME,
YOU HAVE LIED;
MAKING HIS LORDSHIP YOUR EBOSHIOYA. THAT CANNOT BE FORGIVEN!!
ARE PEOPLE OF THE GENJI CAPABLE OF TRICKERY IN ORDER TO SAVE THEMSELVES!?

I COULDN'T HELP IT.
BUT...
I DIDN'T KNOW THEY'D MAKE ME MARRY...
NOW I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN SET FREE.
I'M SORRY, YOU TWO...
!
I DON'T HAVE TO LIE AND LIVE AS A MAN ANYMORE.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, RYO?
WHY DID YOU TELL THE TRUTH AFTER GOING THROUGH GENPUKU...!?

RYO, STOP IT.
RYO-DONO, YOU HAVE DONE NOTHING WRONG.
BECAUSE OF MY OWN SELFISH ACTIONS, WE MAY BE FORCED TO MOVE ON AGAIN...
EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE NOWHERE TO TURN TO...
RYO!?
THAT OLD MAN LIKES YOU, RYO, SO HE WON'T THROW US OUT.
THAT'S RIGHT.
THERE IS NO NEED TO WORRY.
I... HOPE SO...
PLEASE TAKE OFF YOUR ROBES.
WHAT...?
YOSHITSUNE-SAMA,

IT IS HIS LORDSHIP'S ORDER.
I WONDER WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US.
DO YOU THINK WE'LL BE THROWN OUT...?
AOI-DONO,
WHEN RYO-DONO ANNOUNCED THAT SHE IS A WOMAN,
I WAS SOMEHOW STRANGELY RELIEVED.
YOU'RE BEGINNING TO SOUND LIKE RYO.
INDEED ...
ALTHOUGH I ONCE DREAMED OF THE DAY WHEN RYO-DONO WOULD GO THROUGH GENPUKU.
WEIRDO.
I AM GOING TO SEE HOW RYO-DONO IS DOING...

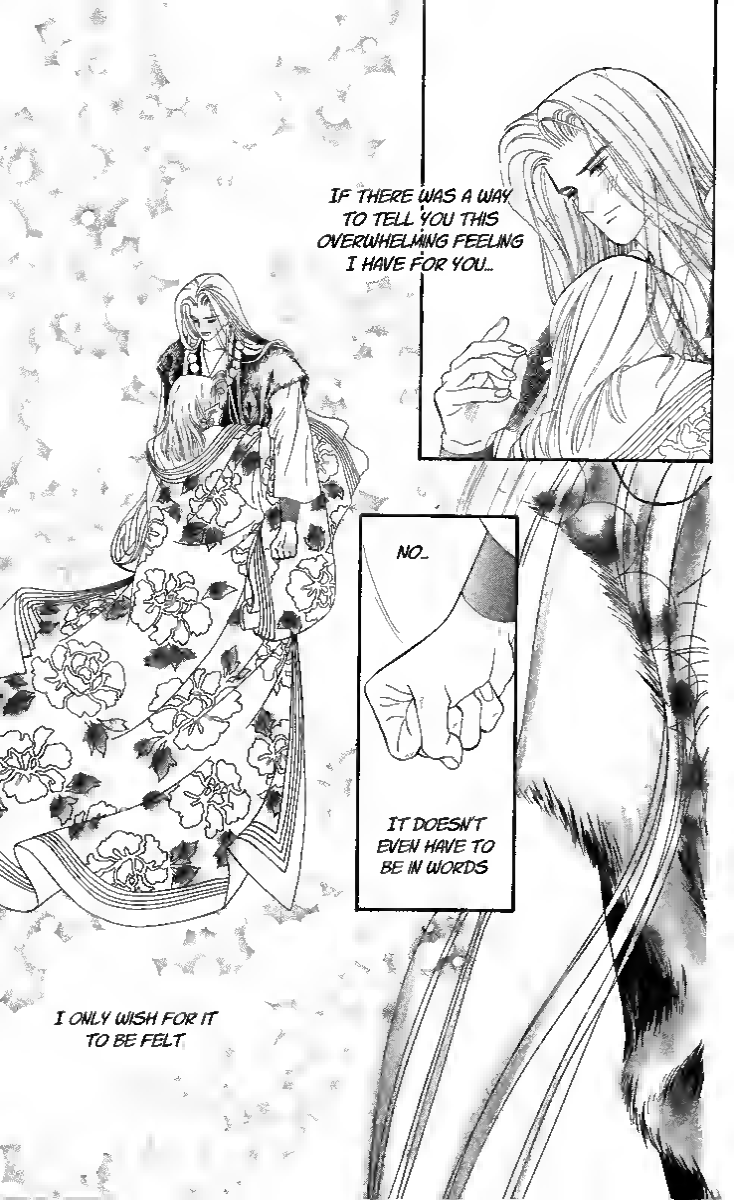

RYO-
DONO,
DO YOU
FEEL
RESTED...?
OH!
BENKEI.

BENKEI!
HIS LORDSHIP SAID THAT WE CAN STAY HERE!!
AND AS PROOF, HE GAVE ME THIS KIMONO TO WEAR.
DO I LOOK LIKE A PRINCESS?
DAZED
.....
OF COURSE IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD ON ME.
MY HAIR ISN'T BLACK, AND IT'S SHORT
NO.
YOU ARE INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL!

I'M SURE THAT THE HEISHI...
WILL FIND OUT THAT I AM A GIRL.
BUT I WON'T MARRY KOREMORI...
OR ANYONE ELSE...

RYO-DONO...
IT MAY GET A LOT TOUGHER FROM HERE ON.
AND THE HEISHI MAY BECOME DETERMINED TO TAKE ME AWAY.
BUT EVEN IF...
I WILL PROTECT YOU.
NO MATTER WHAT MAY HAPPEN, I, BENKEI, WILL PROTECT YOU.
I WILL NOT LET ANYONE TAKE YOU AWAY, RYO-DONO!!

Hug
I'M SO HAPPY, BENKEI!♡
RYO-DONO, YOU MUSTN'T!
YOUR KIMONO WILL BECOME DIRTY.
I DON'T CARE.
I LIKE YOU.
I LIKE YOU SO MUCH
I WILL...
PROTECT YOU TOO, BENKEI.


IF THERE WAS A WAY TO TELL YOU THIS OVERWHELMING FEELING I HAVE FOR YOU...
NO...
IT DOESN'T EVEN HAVE TO BE IN WORDS
I ONLY WISH FOR IT TO BE FELT

YOSHITSUNE-DONO HAS BEEN DECEIVING US ALL THIS TIME.
WILL YOU NOT RECON-SIDER!?
NOW THAT WE KNOW YOSHITSUNE-DONO IS A WOMAN,
WE, THE FUJIWARA, MUST PROTECT HER AT ALL COSTS.
HAS HIS LORDSHIP TAKEN SUCH A LIKING TO YOSHITSUNE-DONO.
DO YOU STILL NOT UNDERSTAND, YASUHIRA?
ONCE THE HEISHI HAVE CONTROL OVER THE GENJI,
NOBODY WILL BE ABLE TO STOP THEM.

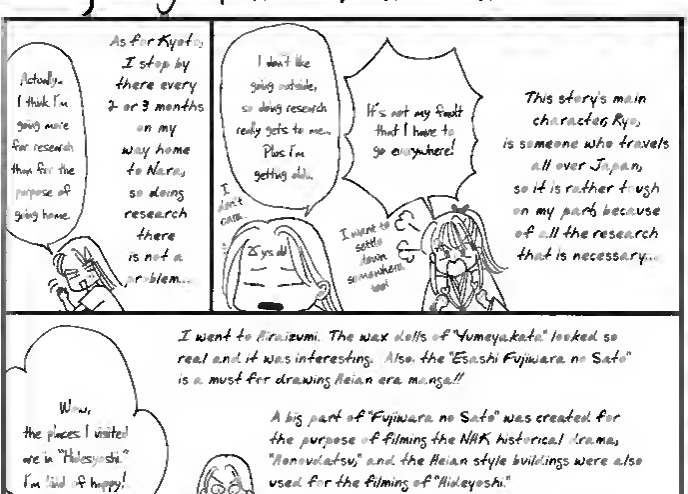
I AM HAPPY TO HEAR THAT YOU ARE READY TO ACCEPT MY PROPOSAL.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
RYO, YOU HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT YOU ARE A WOMAN.
WHICH MEANS THAT YOU ARE WILLING TO BECOME MY WIFE.
PROTECTING YOSHITSUNE-DONO
IS PRECISELY ...
...EQUIVALENT TO PROTECTING HIRAIZUMI.

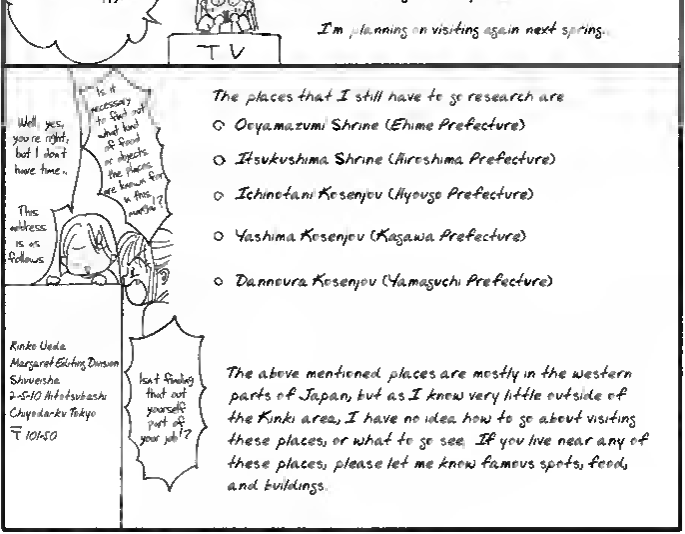
WHY SHOULD I BECOME YOUR WIFE?
RYO.
I ALREADY HAVE SOMEONE I LIKE.
SO...
IS IT BENKEI, THAT SERVANT OF YOURS...?
OUR MARRIAGE WAS DECIDED LONG AGO!
HOW DID YOU KNOW...?
YOU CAN'T!
KOREMORI...
STOP!

I DO NOT WISH FOR THEM TO USE FORCE ON YOU.
SOON, THE HEISHI ARMY WILL COME FOR YOU, RYO.
YOU MUST FORGET YOUR FEELINGS FOR THAT SERVANT. IT WILL NEVER BE REQUITED ANYWAY.
WHOOSH

I WILL NEITHER RUN NOR HIDE.
IF YOU TRY TO WIN ME BY FORCE,
I SHALL FIGHT.
IN ORDER TO BE TRUE TO MY FEELINGS,
THEN I SHALL FIGHT YOU.

Brought to you from Uesin's small room - Part III


Actually, I think I'm going more for research than for the purpose of going home.
As for Kyoto, I stop by there every 2 or 3 months on my way home to Nara, so doing research there is not a problem...
I don't like going outside, so doing research really gets to me... Plus I'm getting old...
I don't care.
It's not my fault that I have to go everywhere!
I want to settle down somewhere, too!
This story's main characters, Ryo, is someone who travels all over Japan, so it is rather tough on my part, because of all the research that is necessary...
I went to Hiraizumi. The wax dolls of "Yumeyakata" looked so real and it was interesting. Also, the "Esashi Fujiwara no Sato" is a must for drawing Heian era manga!!
Wow, the places I visited are in "Heisyoshi." I'm kind of happy!
A big part of "Fujiwara no Sato" was created for the purpose of filming the NHK historical drama, "Hanayakatsu," and the Heian style buildings were also used for the filming of "Rideyoshi."
I'm planning on visiting again next spring.
TV


Well, yes, you're right, but I don't have time...
Is it necessary to find out what kind of flood or objects the places are known for in this manga!?
This address is as follows.
Rinko Ueda
Margaret Eleking Duncan Shuvvesha
2-5-10 Hitotsubashi
Chiyoda-ku Tokyo
〒 101-50
Isn't finding that out yourself part of your job!?
The places that I still have to go research are
○ Oeyamazumi Shrine (Ehime Prefecture)
○ Itsukushima Shrine (Hiroshima Prefecture)
○ Ichinotani Kesenjou (Hyouge Prefecture)
○ Yashima Kesenjou (Kagawa Prefecture)
○ Dannoura Kesenjou (Yamaguchi Prefecture)
The above mentioned places are mostly in the western parts of Japan, but as I know very little outside of the Kinki area, I have no idea how to go about visiting these places, or what to see. If you live near any of these places, please let me know famous spots, food, and buildings.

Please let me know your comments as well

I SHALL FIGHT!
REJ
No.17

I BEG YOU, KOREMORI.
RETURN TO THE CAPITAL.
DO YOU DETEST ME THAT MUCH?
...ENOUGH TO KILL ME?
NO!

I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU...
YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON IN MY WHOLE LIFE TO CONFESS TO ME,
SO I REALLY DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU.
ALTHOUGH NO BLOOD HAS BEEN SHED...
I AM STILL DEEPLY WOUNDED.
YOSHITSUNE-DONO.
!!

SWISH
OUBAI IS HERE AS WELL?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
AH... NOTHING.
I WILL GUIDE YOU.
THANK YOU.
WOULD YOSHITSUNE-DONO LIKE TO LISTEN TO MY FLUTE, TOO?
NO... NO, THANK YOU.
THE LORD SUMMONED ME,
BUT THE MANSION IS SO LARGE, I LOST MY WAY.
IT IS QUITE SURPRISING.
Tap
Tap
Tap

YOSHI-TSUNE-DONO—
I NEVER THOUGHT SHE WOULD BE THIS CUTE.
WHAT?
Heh
AS THEY SAY, 'CLOTHES MAKE THE MAN', OR IN THIS CASE, THE WOMAN
WHAT DOES OUBAI-SAMA THINK?
IT WOULD BE A WONDERFUL THING.
IF I COULD HAVE HER HAND IN MARRIAGE,
I THINK THAT IS A RATHER FAR-FETCHED DREAM.
OUBAI?!

BAM
I ALREADY CRIED FORFEIT!
WAH! FORFEIT! FORFEIT!
Wham
AHH!
WHAT KIND OF SWORDSMAN ARE YOU?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU FORFEIT?!
WHAT IS GOING ON, RYO-DONO?
WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY PRACTICING SWORDPLAY?

IF THE HEISHI COME,
I WANT TO BE ABLE TO PROTECT MYSELF.
BUT—
FINE!
I'LL GO FIND YASUHIRA-SAMA TO FIGHT WITH THEM.
Dash
RYO-DONO...
NEXT, I'M GOING TO CHALLENGE YOU!
WHAT IS UP WITH HER?
THAT IDIOT RYO.
Pan
YOUR-SELF?
I'VE SAID IT BEFORE!
I WANT TO PROTECT YOU ALL, TOO!
BUT YOU HAVE US TO PROTECT YOU.

WHAT IS IT, YOSHITSUNE-DONO?
YOU WANT THE STRENGTH TO PROTECT YOURSELF?
GLONG
BAM
HAH!
AND FIGHT ME SERIOUSLY.
FORGET THAT I'M A GIRL...
Huff
Huff
THERE'S NO REASON TO GO EASY ON ME.
IF YOU ARE TIRED, YOU CAN REST AWHILE.
YASUHIRA-SAMA...
Huff
Huff

BAM
BAM
I WON'T BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INJURIES.
IT'S EXACTLY LIKE THAT TIME BACK THEN...
WHEN SHE FOUGHT BENKEI AT THE DOUJOU.
BAM
THE IMPATIENT, LAZY RYO ...
BECOMES SURPRISINGLY STRONG WHEN SHE PICKS UP A SWORD.
BAM
BAM
BUT...
IT STILL FEELS LIKE SHE'S NOT THE RYO THAT I KNOW.

WHY CAN'T THEY NOT HURT?
SO PAINFUL.
I CAN'T LIFT MY ARMS ANYMORE.
EVEN IF I DON'T DO ANYTHING, I WILL STILL BE PROTECTED
I ALREADY HAVE BENKEI
!!
COME ON, YOSHITSUNE-DONO,
COME AT ME LIKE I'M KOREMORI!

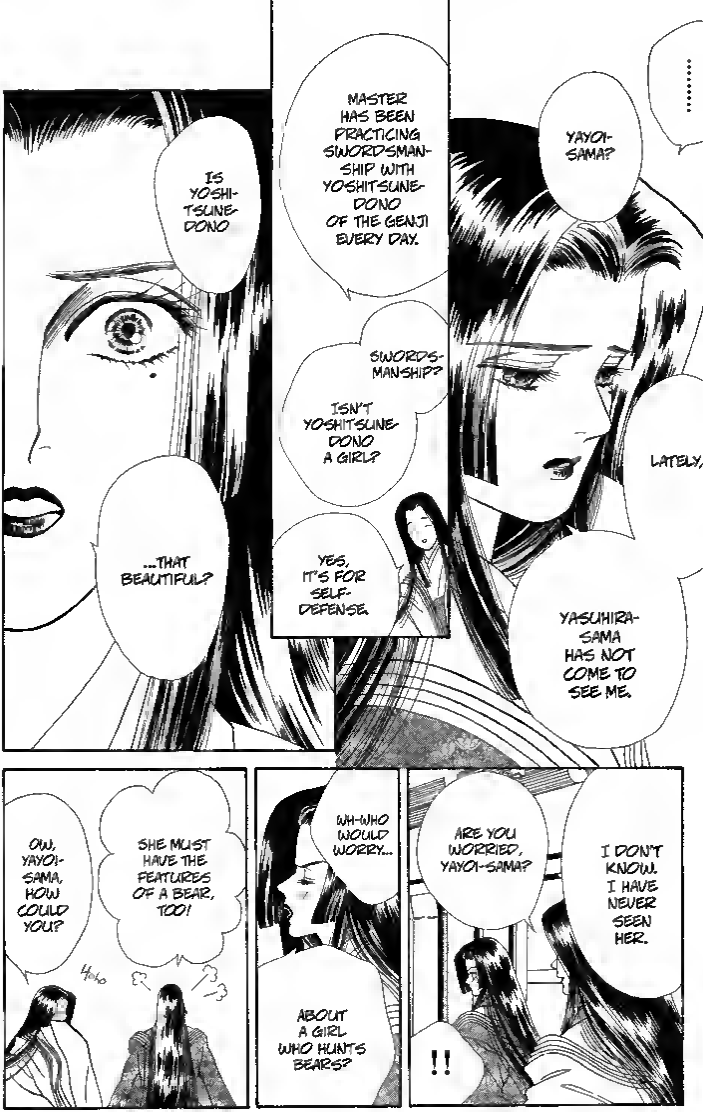
BAM
THUD
PERHAPS I STILL...

ARE YOU OK, RYO?
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
THAT IS ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
WE CAN PRACTICE MORE TOMORROW.
NO,
THE FEELING HASN'T RETURNED AT ALL...
Wait for the day that Uchiwake will awaken
OUCH!!
RYO, YOU—
OUCH, OUCH!
I JUST GOT HIT THERE! DON'T TOUCH!
S-SORRY!
IF_
IT IS LIKE THIS_
CAN YOU STAND ON YOUR OWN?
I'M FINE!

EXHAUSTED
PLEASE REST ON THE BED.
RYO-DONO,
YEAH...
!!
OH, BENKEI, DID I FALL ASLEEP?
RYO-DONO!
DON'T DO THIS ANYMORE!
WHY SUDDENLY...?
RYO-DONO IS A GIRL.
IT IS NOT RIGHT TO INJURE THESE SMALL HANDS...
AND ENDURE SO MUCH PAIN

COMPARED TO THE PAIN IN MY HEART,
IT IS NOTHING.
THE BODY BECOMES STRONG THROUGH TRAINING.
HOWEVER, THE HEART .
.....
SNIFF

SWISH
YASUHIRA-SAMA?
NO, IT IS I, YAYOI-SAMA.
I HAVEN'T SEEN KOREMORI AT ALL.
Riding as well, I?
PER-HAPS..
HE RETURNED TO THE CITY?

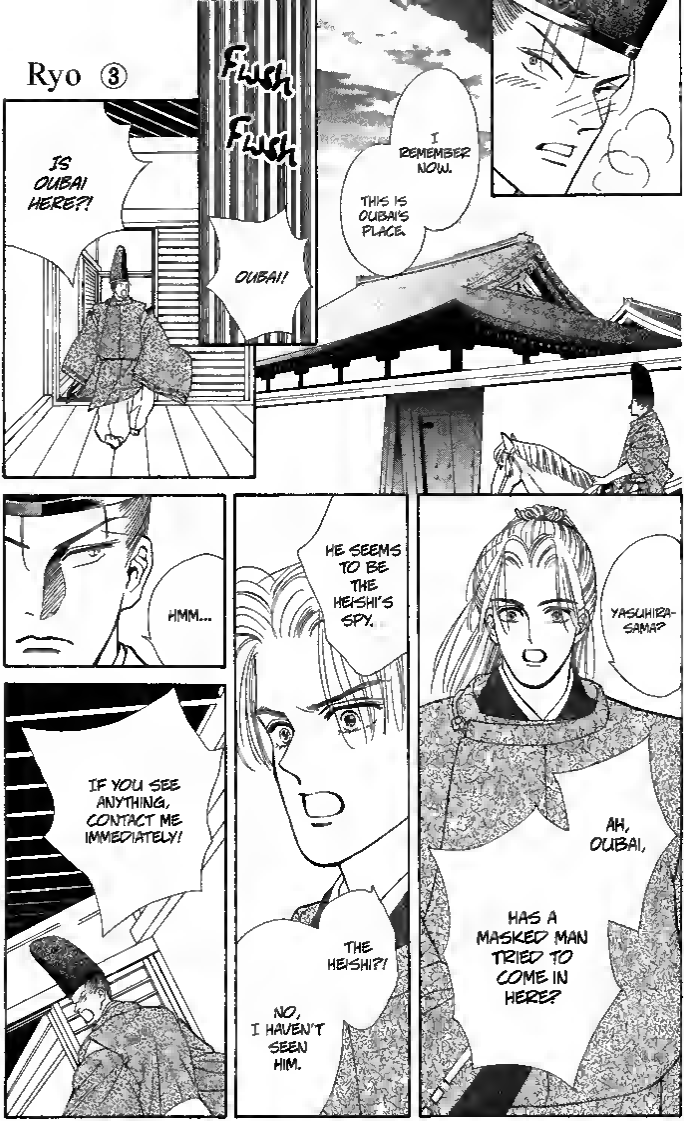

.....
YAYOI-SAMA?
LATELY,
YASUHIRA-SAMA HAS NOT COME TO SEE ME.
I DON'T KNOW. I HAVE NEVER SEEN HER.
ARE YOU WORRIED, YAYOI-SAMA?
!!
WH-WHO WOULD WORRY...
ABOUT A GIRL WHO HUNTS BEARS?
OW, YAYOI-SAMA, HOW COULD YOU?
SHE MUST HAVE THE FEATURES OF A BEAR, TOO!
MASTER HAS BEEN PRACTICING SWORDSMANSHIP WITH YOSHITSUNE-DONO OF THE GENJI EVERY DAY.
SWORDSMANSHIP?
ISN'T YOSHITSUNE-DONO A GIRL?
YES, IT'S FOR SELF-DEFENSE.
IS YOSHITSUNE-DONO
...THAT BEAUTIFUL?

THUD
YOUR SKILLS COULD NOT DEFEAT A RABBIT, LET ALONE THE HEISHI!
YASUHIRA-SAMA!
HUH?
CHERRY BLOSSOMS!
THE CHERRY TREES HAVE BLOOMED!
I HAVE TO FIND BENKEI!
I love spring!
DASH
YOSHITSUNE-DONO?

Tap
Tap
Tap
I CAME FROM THE CITY...
ARE YOU YOSHITSUNE-DONO?
HEISHI!
TO FIND YOU.
PLEASE COME, YOSHITSUNE-DONO.
DON'T... DON'T COME NEAR ME!
Swish

YOSHI-TSUNE-DONO.
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF PRACTICE.
Rustle
SWORDS ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR GIRLS.
GRAB
SO STRONG.
I CAN'T MOVE MY ARM!!
INTRUDER!!
I'M COMING, YOSHITSUNE-DONO!
SLASH
!!
HALT!

THE HEISHI
FINALLY!
THEY'RE HERE!
GET THE HORSES!
THE HORSES!
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
HE WON'T GET VERY FAR!
HE IS INJURED!
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
I'M SURE HE TURNED THIS WAY..
DAMN!
DID WE LOSE HIM?
EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO TURN THE LAND INSIDE OUT, I WANT YOU TO FIND HIM!
YES, SIR!
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP


FLUSH
FLUSH
I REMEMBER NOW.
THIS IS OUBAI'S PLACE.
IS OUBAI HERE?!
OUBAI!
HMM...
HE SEEMS TO BE THE HEISHI'S SPY.
YASUHIRA-SAMA?
IF YOU SEE ANYTHING, CONTACT ME IMMEDIATELY!
THE HEISHI?!
NO, I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM.
AH, OUBAI,
HAS A MASKED MAN TRIED TO COME IN HERE?

SLAM
.....
MANY APOLOGIES, KOREMORI-SAMA.
LOWER YOUR VOICE.
YASUHIRA IS STILL NEARBY.
I FAILED TO KIDNAP THE GIRL,
AND EVEN GOT MYSELF SLASHED.
THIS HITACHI BOUKAISON...
...HAS BECOME WEAK.

I NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS THOUGHT I WOULD MEET YOUR HIGHNESS HERE.
THE NEWS OF USHIWAKA BEING A GIRL HAS ALREADY SPREAD TO ROKUHARA?
YES, IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE.
I CAME HERE BY ORDER OF KIYOMORI-SAMA.
THAT'S A DEEP WOUND.
WAS IT BENKEI'S DOING?
REALLY?
SHE'S BECOME SO STRONG SHE COULD INJURE KAISON?
NO, YOSHITSUNE-DONO DID IT.
B-BENKEI IS...?
YOSHITSUNE'S HEAD VASSAL.
IN THE CAPITAL HE IS A WELL-KNOWN MONK. HAVE YOU EVER COME ACROSS HIS NAME?
...YEAH, IF THAT'S THE NAME...

REST ASSURED, YOSHITSUNE-DONO,
THE GUARDS ARE CONTINUING TO SEARCH FOR THE INTRUDER.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME, MY LORD,
FOR HAVING ALLOWED—
THE HEISHI HAVE FINALLY TAKEN ACTION.
THEY WANT YOSHITSUNE-DONO MARRIED TO KOREMORI.
WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS KOREMORI?
ACCORDING TO KICHIJI,
DURING THE CEREMONY OF GOSHIRAKAWA BECOMING HOUOU,** KOREMORI'S ARTISTIC SKILLS WERE OUTSTANDING.
PEOPLE WHO WITNESSED HIS PERFORMANCE AGREED HE DESERVES THE TITLE OF 'GENERAL OUBA'.
RUMOR HAS IT THAT HE IS THIS ERA'S MOST HANDSOME MAN
HE IS OFTEN COMPARED TO HIKARU GENJI.*
HAS YOSHITSUNE-DONO EVER MET KOREMORI?
ER...
UM...

*Hikaru Genji: "The brilliant Genji", hero of *Genji Monogatari (The Tale of Genji)* written by Murasaki Shikibu

**Goshirakawa: reigning emperor from 1155 to 1158

houou: ex-emperor who becomes a monk.

WHAT RELATION IS HE TO THE FLUTE PLAYER OUBAI?
DIDN'T BENKEI-DONO THINK OUBAI WAS KOREMORI THE FIRST TIME HE SAW HIM?
THAT OUBAI IS DEFINITELY KOREMORI!
HE'S NOT!
GENERAL OUBAI..?!
IT'S TRUE THEY LOOK ALIKE, BUT THAT PERSON IS NOT KOREMORI!
RYO-DONO..
REPORTS SAY THE HEISHI HEIR IS MISSING
THERE IS GREAT CONTROVERSY IN THE CAPITAL CONCERNING HIS WHERE-ABOUTS. DID HE PERHAPS COME TO HIRAIZUMI?
THIS SITUATION ...
REQUIRES INVESTIGATION.

THAT NIGHT
KOREMORI-SAMA AND OUBA DO LOOK VERY MUCH ALIKE.
SURELY THERE CANNOT BE TWO SUCH HANDSOME FACES IN THIS WORLD.
A FLOWER OF SUCH OUT-STANDING BEAUTY..
CANNOT BLOOM TWICE, EVEN IN THE VAST EAST.

BENKEI-DONO.
HERE.
ARE YOU WILLING TO HELP ME PICK THIS FLOWER?
TO TAKE DOWN OUBA? NO—
KOREMORI OF THE TAIRA.

Translation: Baboonbutte + help from Alpha-Seijin
Scans: MiaHoneyDo
Editing: Ink
Proofreading: Centime & Conner

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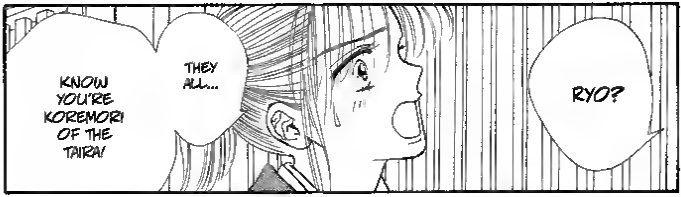
BRR~
SO COLD!
IT'S SPRING, BUT IT'S STILL THIS COLD
WHY DOES THE LORD WANT US TO GUARD THE HOUSE OF THE MUSICIAN OUBAI?
DON'T ASK.
HUH?

Ryo
No.18
ISN'T THAT...
YOSHITSUNE-DONO?
IS IT REALLY YOU, RYO?
YOU'VE BEEN SUMMONED, HAVEN'T YOU?
I WAS JUST GETTING READY TO GO TO THE MANSION.

YOU MUST FLEE!
YES—


THEY ALL...
KNOW YOU'RE KOREMORI OF THE TAIRA!
RYO?

YOU HAVE TO ESCAPE!
WHY DO THEY THINK THAT?
.....!
YOU USED TO BE CALLED GENERAL OUBAI, DIDN'T YOU?
OTHER-WISE...

I CAN FINALLY AVENGE UTA!
I MUST FIRST TELL RYO-DONO...
NO
IF I TELL HER, I WILL BE STOPPED
FINALLY...
Click
BENKEI, YOU'RE GOING OUT?
YES, I WILL BE BACK SHORTLY.

...MMPH!
THANK YOU FOR COMING HERE ON YOUR OWN, YOSHITSUNE-SAMA.
STOP, KAISON!
DO NOT TREAT HER SO ROUGHLY!
OUR LIVES ARE AT STAKE, KOREMORI-SAMA!
DASH
WE HAVE TO LEAVE WITH YOSHITSUNE-SAMA IMMEDIATELY!
WHOOSH
?
THWAK
—
BUT—
RELEASE RYO-DONO!

BENKEI!
YOU ARE...
KAISON?

COME, RYO.
MASTER! HURRY AND LEAVE WITH YOSHITSUNE-SAMA!
I WILL HANDLE THIS!
WHY IS KAISON...?
NO! I WON'T LEAVE!
HALT, KOREMORI!
I WON'T LET YOU PASS, BENKEI!
SWISH
CLASH

WHY ARE YOU HELPING THE HEISHI?
WHY?
Swish
NO!
BUT OUR ENEMY IS THE HEISHI!
BECAUSE I HEARD YOU BECAME A VASSAL OF THE GENJI.
Thud

URA...
MY SISTER DIED BECAUSE OF YOU!
UTA...
BENKEI!
MY LORD IS WAITING FOR YOU, OUBA!
NO— KOREMORI OF THE TAIRA.
TAP
TAP
BENKEI—
RYO, HURRY!

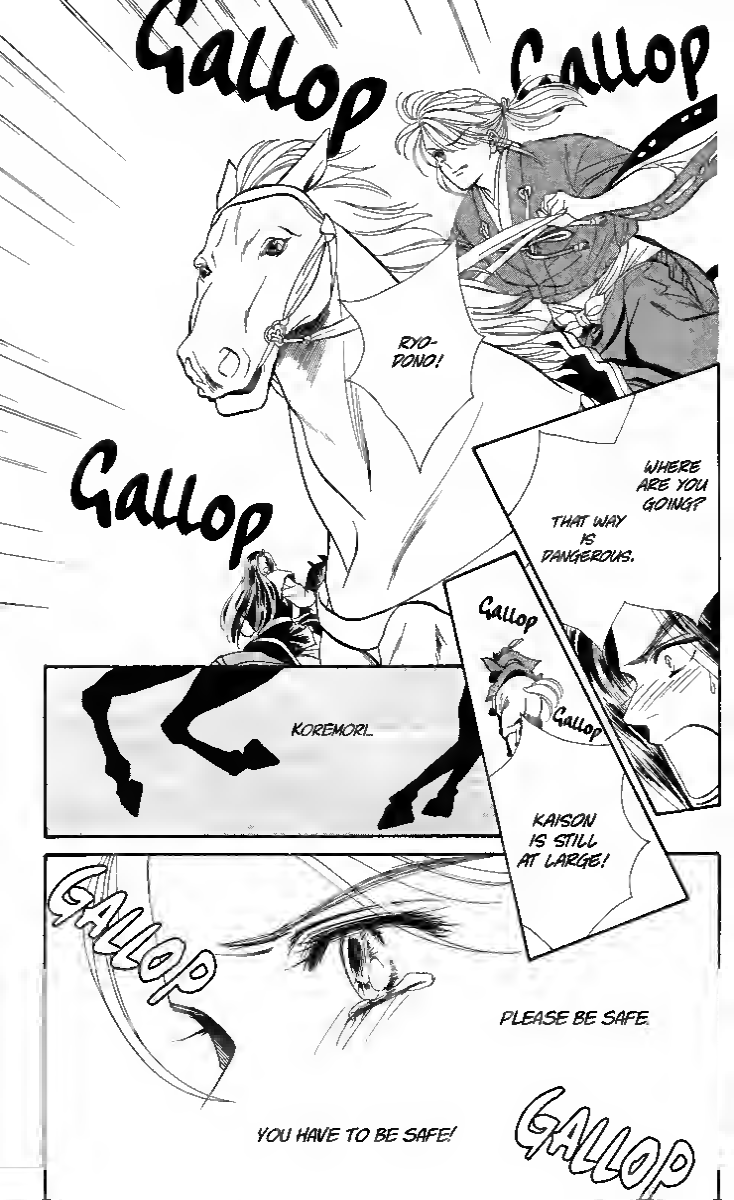
STOP RIGHT THERE!
GO TO HELL, BENKEI!!
WHOOSH
IT WAS BECAUSE OF ME THAT UTA...?
YASUHIRA-DONO, WASN'T THIS SUPPOSED TO BE A SECRET MISSION?
ARE YOU OK, BENKEI?
THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE, BENKEI-DONO.
AND TAKE THAT DOG OF THE HEISHI WITH YOU.
GO BACK NOW!
THE SITUATION CHANGED
YES, SIR!
I HEARD THAT YOSHITSUNE-DONO CAME HERE, SO THIS WAS THE ONLY OPTION.
KOREMORI-SAMA...

YOU, COME WITH US!
grab
JUST WHO...
IS THE HEISHI'S DOG?
AAARG!
HE'S ESCAPING!
AFTER HIM!
KOREMORI-SAMA, I SWEAR...
I WILL RETURN TO RESCUE YOU.
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF UNTIL THEN!
KAISON ...
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
Jump
AFTER HIM!
KAISON, WAIT!
BENKEI...

HUP
I HAVE TO CATCH HIM!
THUD THUD
WHY?
WHY DID HE SAY UTA DIED BECAUSE OF ME?
THUD THUD
MY LORD!
WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH KOREMORI?
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO KILL HIM...
NO, I WON'T KILL HIM.
IF THE FUJIWARA KILL THE HEIR OF THE HEISHI, THERE WOULD BE WAR.
WE DO NOT WANT THAT.
THEN...
NO BLOOD WILL BE SHED.

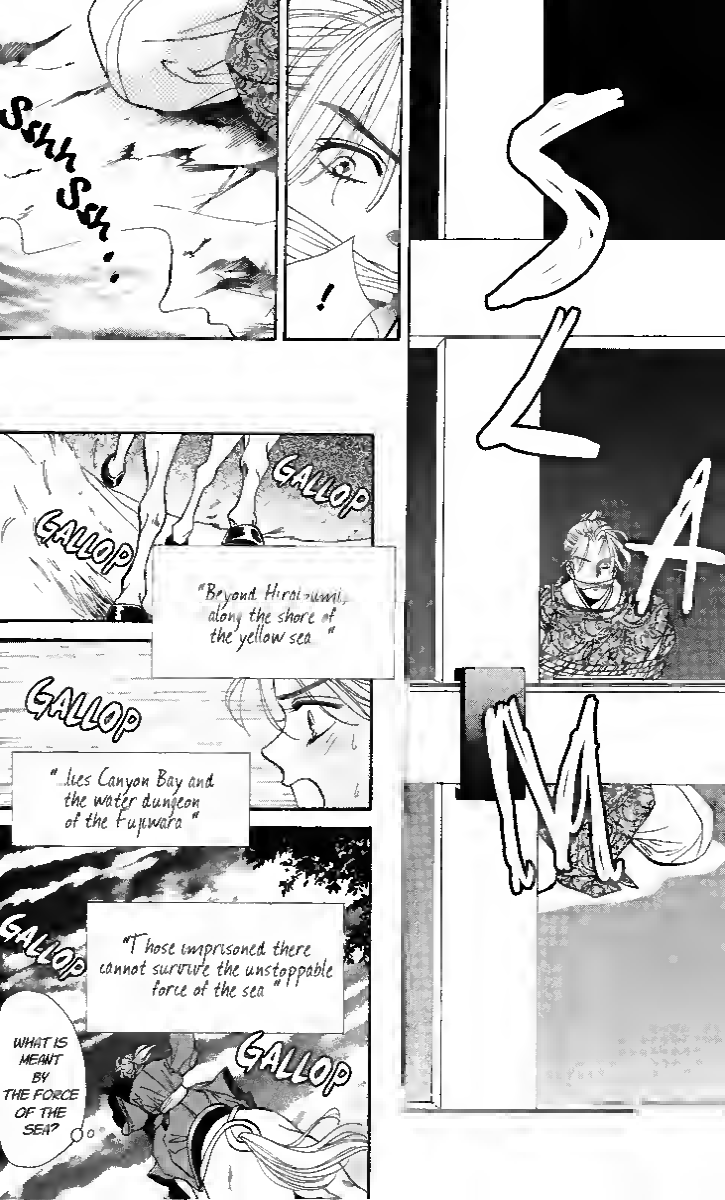
THE DARK SHALL BE RETURNED TO THE DARKNESS.
ISN'T THAT THE SAME AS KILLING?
THAT—
DOESN'T THAT MEAN DEATH?
BUT THAT'S NO REASON TO TAKE SOMEONE'S LIFE!
WE ARE DOING THIS TO PROTECT YOU FROM THE HEISHI.
YOSHI-TSUNE-DONO,
PLEASE DON'T DO THIS!
COULD IT BE THAT YOU ARE INFATUATED BY OUBAI'S... NO, KOREMORI'S BEAUTY?
YOSHITSUNE-DONO...

IF KOREMORI MUST BE KILLED, I...
I WANT TO BE THE ONE TO DO IT.
THEN WHAT IS IT?
NO, THAT'S NOT IT!
SO PLEASE TELL ME WHERE KOREMORI IS NOW.
OH...
WE WILL SEND MORE SOLDIERS AFTER HIM THEN.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
GALLOP
GALLOP
GALLOP
!
BENKEI-DONO, HAVE YOU FOUND THAT SCOUNDREL YET?
NO, HE'S VERY FAST.


Gallop
Gallop
RYO-DONO!
Gallop
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
THAT WAY IS DANGEROUS.
Gallop
Gallop
KOREMORI...
KAISON IS STILL AT LARGE!
GALLOP
PLEASE BE SAFE.
YOU HAVE TO BE SAFE!
GALLOP

SSHHH
IF YOU KILL ME...
THE ARMY OF THE HEISHI WILL ATTACK.
THAT IS ASSUMING THE NEWS OF YOUR EXECUTION...
BECOMES KNOWN IN THE CAPITAL.
I ASSURE YOU, THEY WON'T HEAR IT FROM US.
AS FAR AS ANYONE KNOWS, KOREMORI HAS NEVER BEEN IN HIRAIZUMI.
?!

THE ONE BEING EXECUTED HERE IS A MUSICIAN NAMED OUBAI.
YOU—!
EVEN IF THE TRUTH BECOMES KNOWN, THE HEISHI NO LONGER HAVE THE POWER TO FIGHT HIRAIZUMI.
NO LONGER HAVE THE POWER?
NEWS JUST CAME FROM THE CAPITAL—
SHIGEMORI OF THE TAIRA IS DEAD.
FATHER?
IT'S A LIE!
HOW COULD MY FATHER BE DEAD?
MMPH!
YOU WILL LEARN THE TRUTH ONCE YOU JOIN HIM...
IN HEAVEN.


Sshh Ssh..
!
SELMA
GALLOP
GALLOP
"Beyond Hirai-zumi, along the shore of the yellow sea."
GALLOP
"...lies Canyon Bay and the water dungeon of the Fujiwara."
GALLOP
"Those imprisoned there cannot survive the unstoppable force of the sea."
WHAT IS MEANT BY THE FORCE OF THE SEA?
GALLOP

GALLOP
WHATEVER IT MEANS, I MUST FIND KOREMORI QUICKLY!
GALLOP
WHY IS SHE ALONE?
THAT IS YOSHITSUNE!
"I like Ryo."
YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG, AND YET...
"Are you hurt boy?"
KOREMORI!
YOU CAN'T DIE!
GALLOP
GALLOP

YOU HAVE TO STILL BE ALIVE!
LIVE...
WHAM
SSH
A PERSON OF HIGH REPUTE...
MY GRANDFATHER'S RIGHT-HAND MAN FATHER IS DEAD...
WILL I DIE HERE?
IT'S NO USE...
SSH
AND I...
FATHER...
I CAN'T EVEN MOVE.
SSH
!

ONCE MORE BEFORE I DIE, I WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE...
RYO!
KOREMORI!
WHERE?
WHERE ARE YOU?
Ryo...
SPLASH
Ssh
Ssh
Ssh
TAP
TAP
WHERE IS THIS CANYON BAY DUNGEON?

SPLASH
WHERE?
KOREMORI!
Click
Click
...!
KOREMORI
Gasp
Breathing
PLOP

KOREMORI!
WAKE UP, KOREMORI!
Blow
Blow
Cough
THANK GOD!
Wheeze
Wheeze
HE'S ICE COLD!
FREEZING!
Cough
KOREMORI!
YOU'RE ALIVE!
Cough
Inhale
Cough

I CAN'T TAKE HIM BACK TO HIRAIZUMI!
BUT THERE'S NO SHELTER NEARBY.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WHAT CAN I—?
Crackle
Crackle
Crackle

I BEG YOU.
OPEN YOUR EYES...
CALL ME... RYO.
SO COLD.
...AND CALL MY NAME.
CALL... AND COME BACK TO ME.

Translation: Baboonbutte + little help from Yuwa
Scans: MiaHoneyDo
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Proofreading: Centime & Conner

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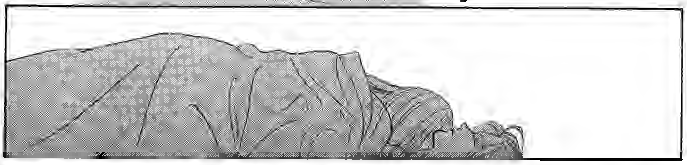
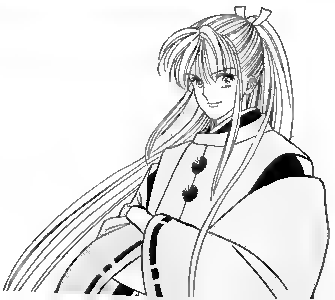
ハンウ
R-50
No.19

I HAVE NEVER SHOWN YOU ANY SIGNS OF GENTLENESS
FORGIVE ME, KOREMORI.
I HAVEN'T EVEN SAID ANY KIND WORDS TO YOU BEFORE NOW.
BEFORE ALL OF THIS HAPPENED, I NEVER REALISED IT
I'M SORRY.





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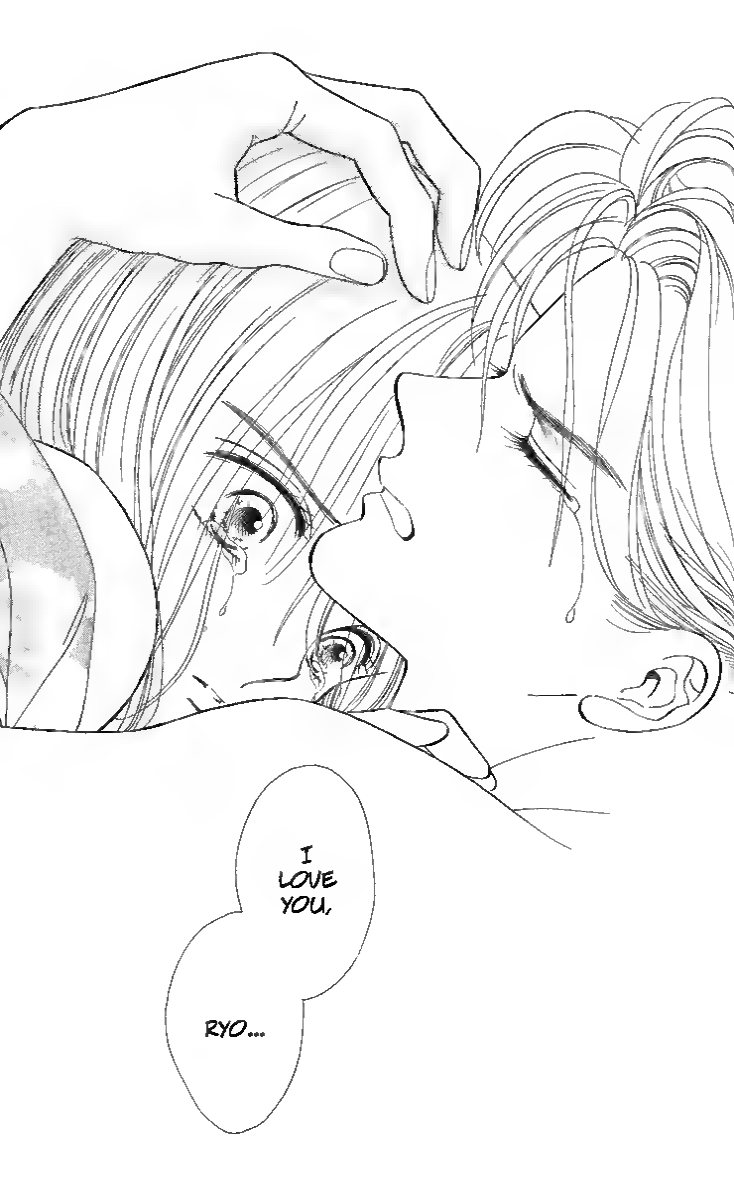
Proofreading Centime

KOREMORI, YOU'RE AWAKE?!
NG...
SORRY FOR CAUSING YOU SO MUCH PAIN.
DON'T WORRY IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE.
IS THIS...
IS THIS HEAVEN?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
YOU'VE BEEN SAVED, YOU'RE ALIVE.
KOREMORI,
YOU MUST LEAVE THIS PLACE BEFORE THE SUN RISES,
AND RETURN TO THE CAPITAL.
WHY DID YOU SAVE ME...?

IF I CAN'T BE WITH YOU, THERE IS NO REASON FOR ME TO LIVE IN THIS WORLD...
...KOREMORI?
EVEN IF DAYBREAK COMES,
AND THE SUN SHINES; TO ME,
THIS WORLD WILL STILL BE AN INFINITE SEA OF DARKNESS...

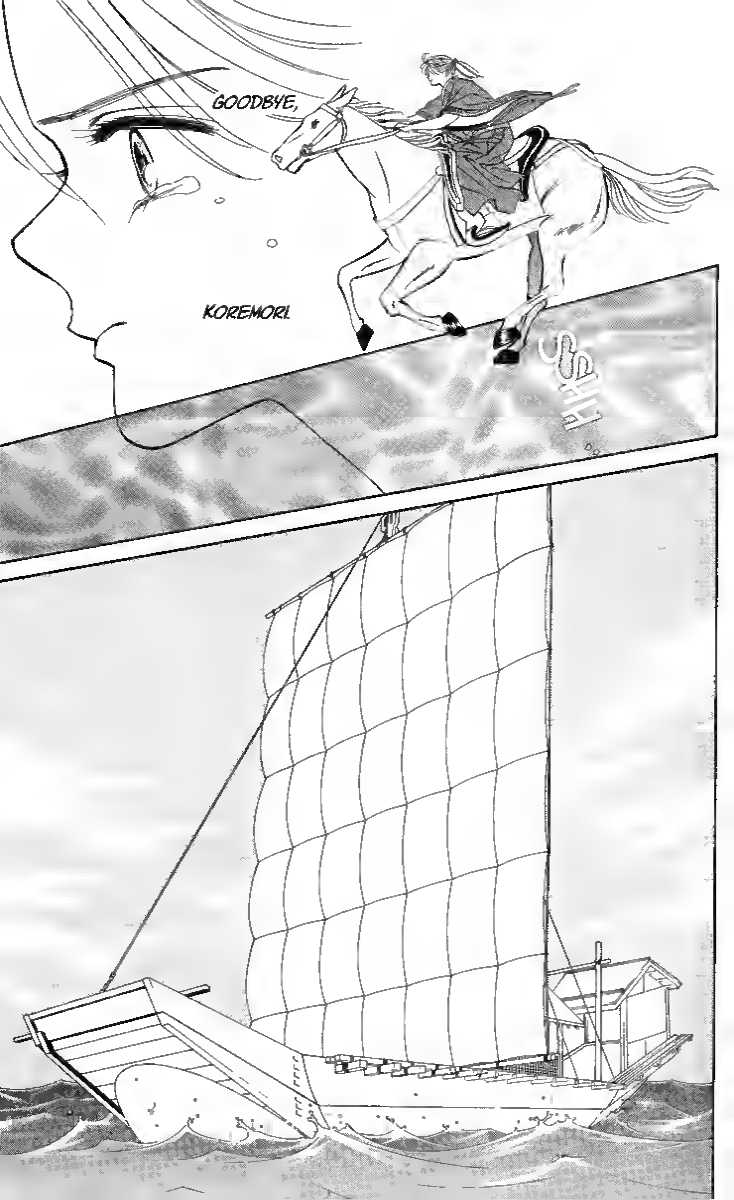
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE.
EVERYONE CARRIES HOPES,
EVERYONE HOLDS ONTO IMPOSSIBLE DREAMS AND LIVES ON...


I LOVE YOU,
RYO...

...ME, TOO.
RYO...
ALTHOUGH THIS ISN'T TRUE LOVE,
YOU ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO ME.
AS LONG AS YOU LIVE, THE SUN WILL CONTINUE TO SHINE UPON YOU.
PLEASE,
LIVE ON..
GLOWING UPON EVERY LIVING THING IN THIS WORLD

BUT HOW IS KOREMORI SUPPOSED TO GET BACK TO THE CITY?
GOOD, HIS TEMPERATURE IS BACK TO NORMAL.
RUSTLE

!!
THAT IS...
Thud
Thud
Thud
Thud
Thud
THUD
THUD
SWISH
YOSHI-TSUNE...!
KOREMORI-SAMA!
KOREMORI-SAMA! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
PLEASE WAKE UP!
RUSTLE
Plop
Plop
Plop


GOODBYE,
KOREMORI
SHIP

REST ASSURED,
THIS SHIP SAILS STRAIGHT TO THE CAPITAL...
DONO,
ARE YOU AWAKE?
NG...
DO YOU FEEL A BIT BETTER?
.....
I HAD A DREAM...
A DREAM?
A DREAM THAT I WAS IN THE ARMS OF AN ANGEL.
AN ANGEL?
I WANT TO SEE ONE, TOO.
THE ANGEL TOLD ME TO LIVE ON.

KAISON.
AFTER I ARRIVE AT THE CAPITAL,
I WANT TO TRAIN HARD, TOO.
DONO...?
I WANT TO BECOME STRONG.
I MUST MAKE RYO...
I WANT TO FIGHT, TOO!
FOR THE SAKE OF SHOWING MY LOYALTY.

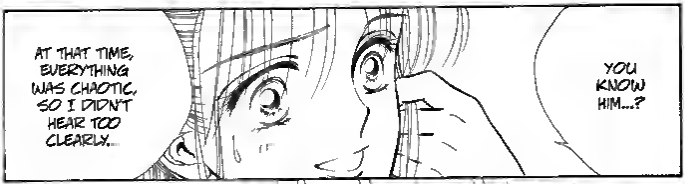
I'M AFRAID THE ESCAPED MONK MAY HAVE RESCUED HIM.
KOREMORI ESCAPED!?
BUT IT'S BEST TO PREPARE WHILE IT'S STILL EARLY.
I'M SURE KIYOMORI IS NOT A FOOLISH MAN,
IF KOREMORI LIVES, THEN WILL WE HAVE TO GO TO WAR WITH THE HEISHI?
YES...
PLEASE SEND THE LOAD WE RECEIVED YESTERDAY TO ROKUHARA.
YASUHIRA,
WHEN I ARRIVED, THE DUNGEON WAS ALREADY EMPTY
HUH? AH, YES
BUT WHAT A PITY, YOSHITSUNE;
KOREMORI WAS NOT ANNIHILATED

THE ONE WHO SAVED KOREMORI...
WAS ME.
DID YOU ASK FOR ME, RYO-DONO?
I ONLY WANT TO TELL BENKEI THE TRUTH..
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY I DID THAT.
BUT KOREMORI HASN'T DONE ANYTHING BAD,
AND HE HAS TO BE EXECUTED...?
I JUST CAN'T—
TO ME,
THE EXISTENCE OF KOREMORI ITSELF IS A CRIME.

A CRIME?
SUNG IS CHINA, RIGHT?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND CHINESE!
THIS HAS ALREADY BEEN TRANSLATED.
WHAT~
LEND IT TO ME WHEN YOU'RE DONE READING!
MAYBE HE'S IMPLYING THAT TRAINING IS NOT BAD, BUT YOU SHOULD ALSO STUDY A BIT?
APPARENTLY IT IS SUNG'S STRATEGY BOOK.
THIS IS...
CRIME
RYO, THIS IS FROM HIS LORDSHIP.

BENKEI, HELP ME READ THIS!
THIS IS IN JAPANESE KANJI, BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND A THING—!
TAP
BENKEI!
BENKEI—!!
TAP
TAP
IF YOU LOOK AT EACH WORD SEPARATELY, SHOULDN'T YOU AT LEAST UNDERSTAND A BIT?
BUT WHEN I LOOK AT THE WORDS I GET SLEEPY... SAME WITH NUMBERS.
SO BENKEI...
YOU SHOULD LOOK AT THE WORDS SLOWLY.
THIS IS FOR RYO-DONO'S SAKE.
charren charren
SO... SO COLD HEARTED ~
WHICH IS NO SURPRISE SINCE KOREMORI IS BENKEI'S ENEMY, BUT...
BENKEI REALLY IS ANGRY...
BUT I.
charren charren

YES, KAISON!
KAISON?
REMEMBER, AT KOREMORI'S HOME... THE MONK YOU WERE FIGHTING WITH...
B-BY THE WAY, BENKEI.


AT THAT TIME, EVERYTHING WAS CHAOTIC, SO I DIDN'T HEAR TOO CLEARLY...
YOU KNOW HIM...?

UM...!
...YES, THAT...
KAISON'S SISTER, UTA-SAN.
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

WHAT...
DOES BENKEI STILL LOVE HER?
YOSHITSUNE-DONO,
HERE YOU ARE!
WHAT WHAT IS THE MATTER?
THE LORD IS CALLING FOR YOUR PRESENCE.
YOUR VASSAL'S AS WELL.
THESE TWO ARE THE SATOU SIBLINGS.
YOUR SERVANT, THE ELDER SISTER, SATOU SATSUKI.
I AM HER YOUNGER BROTHER, KYUUMA.

WHAT "I"? HOW DARE YOU SPEAK SO CASUALLY TO THE GENJI'S HEIR!
WHACK
OW!
WHAT...?
THE SATOU SIBLINGS ARE OUSHUU'S TOP ARCHER AND HORSEMAN.
YOU CAN'T PUNCH PEOPLE IN FRONT OF YOSHITSUNE-DONO! OLD HAG
WHAT DID YOU CALL ME!?
POW
SIBLINGS SHOULDN'T FIGHT
IF THE HEISHI DARE TO ATTACK YOSHITSUNE-DONO, AT ANY TIME,
EVEN IF THEY SEND KOREMORI OR HIS MONK,
THERE WILL BE NOTHING TO FEAR WITH THESE SIBLINGS.
ACTUALLY, I CAME TO ASK YOSHITSUNE-DONO IF YOU ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE SATOU SIBLINGS AS YOUR VASSALS?

BENKEI-DONO IS A VASSAL OF OVER-WHELMING POWER.
BUT YOU WILL BE SAFER WITH THE ADDITION OF THE SATOU SIBLINGS.
IS IT OK?
TO BE MY VASSALS ...
MY LOW SELF AND YOSHITSUNE-DONO ARE BOTH GIRLS, AND FOR A LONG TIME I HAVE WANTED TO SERVE YOU.
ME TOO...
KYUUMA! YOU ARE A MAN!
Ah, that's true. There's a lot of differences!
ER... THEN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
BOW
YOU TWO, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, MUST DO EVERYTHING IN YOUR POWER TO PROTECT YOSHITSUNE-DONO!
YES!
.....

WHAT— ARE THE SATOU SIBLINGS FRATERNAL TWINS?
AOI, HOW DID YOU KNOW?
RYO YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF HISTORY IS APPALLING.
BUT MY PE AND MUSIC ARE QUITE GOOD!
ALSO, THE SISTER IS GOING TO TEACH ME HOW TO READ THE BOOK OF STRATEGIES!♡
UNLIKE SOMEONE, SHE'S VERY NICE ~
Is the sister beautiful?
Hehe!
OOPS_
I THINK HE REALLY IS ANGRY NOW_
I HAVEN'T BEEN GETTING ALONG WITH BEINKE! RECENTLY,
I JUST KEEP DOING THINGS THAT UPSET HIM
WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE UP WITH HIM_?

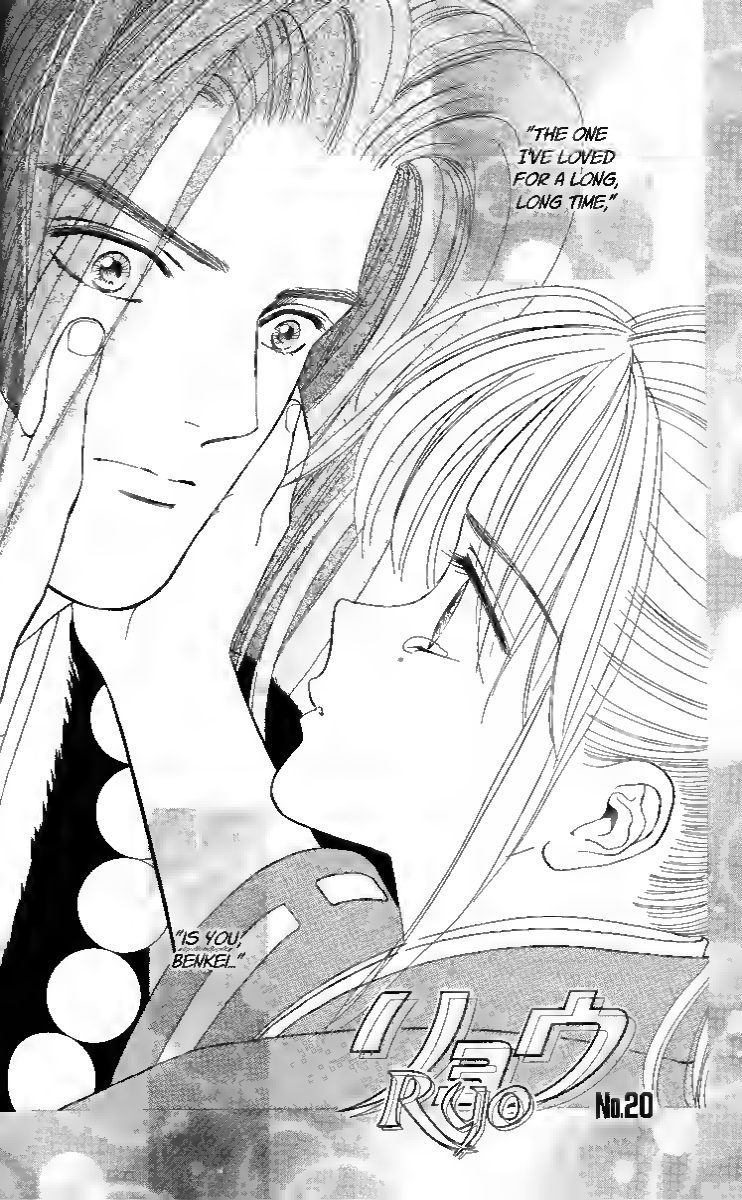
BENKEI!!
WANT TO GO HUNTING?
ISN'T IT TIME FOR SWORD PRACTICE?
I'M TAKING A BREAK TODAY!
EVERYONE NEED'S TO HAVE A BREAK SOMETIMES.
THE SATOU SIBLINGS ARE COMING AS WELL.
WE SHOULD BRING A BENTOU!
LET'S BRING LOTS OF BENKEI'S FAVOURITE DANGO*!
RYO-DONO..
WHAT?

*Dango = sweet dumplings.

I WAS NEVER ANGRY.
YOU'RE STILL ANGRY ABOUT ME SAVING KOREMORI?
BUT TO RYO-DONO
TO BREAK DOWN THE HEISHI.
MY ONLY OBJECTIVE IS,
.....
WHAT... ARE YOU SAYING?
SINCE YOU HAVE OUSHUUU'S BEST ARCHER AND HORSEMAN BY YOUR SIDE,
ISN'T IT TRUE THAT YOU DON'T NEED ME ANYMORE?

TO THE RYO-DONO WHO ACTS ACCORDING TO HER FEELINGS,
AS HER VASSAL, WHAT CAN I SAY?
ACTING ACCORDING TO MY FEELINGS
BENKEI, IS THERE SOME MISUNDER-STANDING HERE...?
THINKING THAT I HAVE FEELINGS FOR KOREMORI...
JUST LOOKING AT RYO-DONO'S ACTIONS, ANYONE WOULD THINK THIS WAY.

IS YOU, BENKEI...
PLEASE FORGIVE—
MANY APOLOGIES, FOR MY INCONSID-ERATION.
I... LIKE KOREMORI ...
THE ONE I'VE LOVED FOR A LONG, LONG TIME,
BUT THE ONE I FEEL AN EVEN GREATER LOVE FOR...


"THE ONE I'VE LOVED FOR A LONG, LONG TIME,"
"IS YOU, BENKEI."
リョウ
Ryo
No.20

NOT KOREMORI,
BUT BENKEI...
RYO-DONO...
PLEASE, DON'T LEAVE ME!
I LOVE BENKEI,
AND BECAUSE I WANTED TO BE WITH YOU FOREVER, I... THAT'S WHY I CAME HERE..

I PLANNED NEVER TO TELL YOU THIS,
BECAUSE I KNOW THAT IT WILL BURDEN YOU..
BUT, I DEFINITELY DON'T WANT YOU TO MIS-UNDER-STAND MY FEELINGS!
DEFINITELY...

FORGIVE ME!
!!
NOT WITH RYO-DONO...
SORRY!
SORRY, BENKEI!
I'M AN IDIOT!

THE ONE WHO MISUNDERSTOOD IS ME!
BUT IT'S ALL BECAUSE I AM YOSHITSUNE!
...THAT'S THE ONLY REASON!
THINKING THAT BENKEI LIKES ME, TOO..
ALL BECAUSE I AM VERY IMPORTANT TO HIM
I... MIGHT AS WELL DIE...

DOES YASUHIRA-SAMA KNOW ABOUT HIS BABY?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, YAYOI-SAMA?
IT'S NORMAL TO FEEL UNWELL DURING PREGNANCY.
ALL HE TALKS ABOUT IS YOSHITSUNE-DONO THIS, YOSHITSUNE-DONO THAT--
I, AS HIS WIFE, MEAN NOTHING TO HIM COMPARED TO THE HEIR OF THE GENJI!
IT MUST BE--
MASTER IS A BUSY MAN,
HE IS WITH YOSHITSUNE-DONO AGAIN, ISN'T HE!?
OF COURSE.
THEN WHY HASN'T HE VISITED ME ONCE?
YAYOI-SAMA,
BEING ANGRY IS NOT GOOD FOR THE BABY.
.....

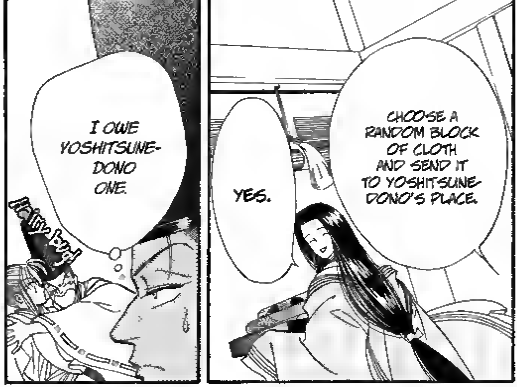
Since you have Oushuu's top archer and horseman,
You don't need me anymore...
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT BENKEI WOULD SAY THAT...
IF BENKEI DISAPPEARS FROM MY LIFE...
WHAT WOULD I DO?
YOSHI-TSUNE-DONO.
I HEARD THAT YOU'RE NOT GOING HUNTING ANYMORE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING UNDER A CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE?
YASU-HIRA-SAMA.
I'M ENJOYING THE SUNSHINE. WHY DON'T YOU JOIN ME?
REALLY?
Hmm...
So warm...
YOU CAN'T LIE ON THE FLOOR LIKE THAT!

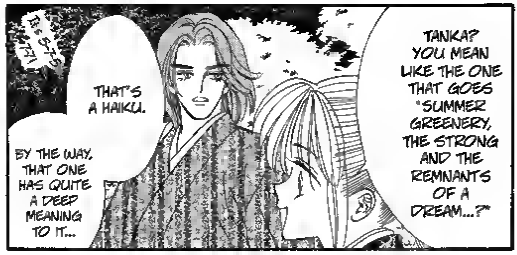
THE TREES IN KYOTO SHOULD ALSO HAVE BLOSSOMED BY NOW...
COMFY, RIGHT?
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME DOING THIS KIND OF THING; I'M NOT QUITE SURE...
KYOTO...
I WONDER IF KOREMORI HAS SAFELY ARRIVED IN THE CAPITAL...
KOREMORI MUST HAVE EXPERIENCED THESE FEELINGS, TOO
AAARGH!!
SORRY KOREMORI...
YASUHIRA-SAMA!!
WHAT! A CATERPILLAR?
THIS IS WHY I HATE TO BE UNDER CHERRY TREES!
CLING
HAIR-
HAIR-
HAIRY BUG ON MY FACE!
YASUHIRA-SAMA!?

THIS IS—
I AM YASUHIRA-SAMA'S WIFE, Y, YOI.
YOSHITSUNE-DONO
THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME MEETING HER?
A CHILD?
SO I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO COME AND SEE YOU MYSELF.
I AM GOING TO BEAR YOUR CHILD, AND YOU DON'T COME TO VISIT ME.
Tsuna
Tsuna
NE-NEVER MIND ABOUT THIS! YAYOI! WHAT'S WITH YOUR ATTITUDE?
HUH?
A BUG FELL ON YOSHITSUNE-DONO'S FACE!
AH!
A BUG FELL ON YOSHIHIRA-SAMA'S FACE.
AH! THIS..
Yasu-hira-sama
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING!?
Y-YAYOI!?

HURRY AND RETURN TO YOUR HOUSE!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...
DON'T COME OUT WITH THAT ATTITUDE!
IT'S A MISUNDER-STANDING!
I AM SUFFERING WITH YOUR CHILD,
AND YOU...!
BESIDES, THIS IS OUR THIRD CHILD, HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO WORRY ABOUT THIS ALL DAY AND NIGHT?
GLARE
ERR.. UM...
SHE'S SO HARD TO CONTROL.
HONEST-LY...
YOU SHOULD HURRY AND CHASE AFTER HER, YASUHIRA!
I KNOW!
TURN
Hah..
HM?
YEAH...
You must make up!
ENOUGH, HURRY!

HOW ABOUT THIS PATTERN?
IT SUITS YOU VERY WELL!
DON'T USE THINGS TO BRIBE ME!
THESE ARE KYOTO'S FINEST SILK.
COME, YAYOI, WHATEVER YOU LIKE IS YOURS.
THIS ALL THIS NEEDS TO BE DONE...?
YES!
MAKE IT IN TIME FOR TOMORROW'S GYOKUSUI BANQUET.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE IT TO YOSHITSUNE-DONO, I MIGHT AS WELL HAVE IT.
Grab
I HATE THOSE KINDS OF TASTELESS PATTERNS!
THEN I'LL GIVE THIS TO YOSHI-TSUNE-DONO
OH... REALLY?
WHAT A SPOILED WOMAN...
Step
Step
OH, ALSO...
YES?
I. I WILL TRY MY BEST.
Heart
WON'T IT BE VERY HARD TO MAKE IT ALL BY TOMORROW?




It's a Tanka, huh?
THAT'S A HAIKU.
BY THE WAY, THAT ONE HAS QUITE A DEEP MEANING TO IT...
TANKA? YOU MEAN LIKE THE ONE THAT GOES "SUMMER GREENERY, THE STRONG AND THE REMNANTS OF A DREAM...?"*

*Gyokusui: a meandering stream; term associated with Nara gardens. The aristocrats often held banquets around those gardens.

*Tanka: an ancient form of Japanese poetry.

WHAT, YAYOI IS HERE, TOO?
ISN'T THAT "WHAT" A BIT UNNECESSARY?
YAYOI-SAMA, HOW IS YOUR HEALTH?
!!
THAT...
THAT OUTFIT...
THIS?
YASUHIRA-SAMA SENT IT TO ME THIS MORNING.
EVERYONE IS GATHERED.
SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING, YOUR LORDSHIP.
I JUST MIXED THEM UP!
IT'S UNBELIEVABLE, BENKEI.
THAT RYO, CAN'T EVEN TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TANKA AND HAIKU.

DO YOU WANT TO DISGRACE ME IN PUBLIC?
CONTROL YOURSELF, YAYOI!
BUT, YASUHIRA-SAMA...
WHY, YASUHIRA-SAMA!?
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT YOU DISLIKED THAT PATTERN?
YOU SAID THAT IT WAS FOR ME!
AM I DISGRACE-FUL?
AM I AN EMBARRASS-MENT?
I DON'T WANT IT!
IF THIS IS YAYOI-SAMA'S OUTFIT, I'LL RETURN IT!
YAYOI...!
I'D RATHER DIE THAN WEAR SOMETHING THAT YOU HAVE TOUCHED!
PLEASE DON'T BE LIKE THIS!

THAT'S ENOUGH, YAYOI!
IF YOSHI-TSUNE-DONO HADN'T COME,
I WOULDN'T FEEL SO BAD
IF THERE WAS NO YOSHI-TSUNE-DONO
!!
YAYOI!!
SLA
SH

MY LORD...?
YAYOI-!
SWISH
MY LORD! WHAT IS THIS...?
YAYOI IS REBELLIOUS.

Crowd
YAYOI, SHE...
SHE'S PREGNANT WITH MY CHILD!
YASUHIRA,
SHE WASN'T SERIOUS ABOUT KILLING YOSHITSUNE-DONO.
MANY CAN REPLACE A WIFE,
BUT NONE CAN REPLACE YOSHITSUNE-DONO.

EVERYTHING MUST BE DONE FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTRY.
YAYOI!!
Wahhhhh
ARE YOU HURT, YOSHI-TSUNE-DONO?
AH...
(care)
AH... AH...
Shock

THIS YEAR'S BANQUET ENDS HERE!
Whisper
Whisper
HEAD?
HEAD ..
FEELS LIKE IT'S GOING TO SPLIT REALLY PAINFUL.
UGH...
!?
RYO-DONO!?
BENKEI...
BENKEI...
I LEAVE YOSHITSUNE-DONO TO YOU.
THE FEUDAL LORD...
HE LOOKED LIKE MY GRANDFATHER..

RYO-DONO...
LIKE GRAND-FATHER DID BACK THEN...
Tremble
Tremble
IT'S SO SCARY, BENKEI.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
SO SCARY...
HE KILLED YAYOI-SAMA BECAUSE OF ME...
CLUTCH
DON'T GO ANYWHERE, BENKEI...

ALL THIS HAPPENED BECAUSE OF ME...
DON'T...
LEAVE ME...
I WANT TO GO HOME!
I WON'T GO,
I WILL BE RIGHT NEXT TO YOU.
I WANT TO GO BACK, BENKEI...

I WANT TO GO BACK.
Go back...?
To where?
You have no home in this world.
WHO...?
NO... DON'T COME NEAR ME!
I have...
always been restraining myself...
DON'T COME NEAR ME!

THUMP
BENKEI.
Y-YES!
DON'T LOOK AT ME AS A WOMAN.
YOUR HEAD . . . DOES IT STILL HURT?
GET UP
M-MY APOLOGIES.
BENKEI, YOU'RE HEAVY.
Ah!

〈To be continued〉

see you in volume 4

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Translation: Baboonbutte + little help from Yuwa
Scans: MiaHoneyDo
Editing: ink
Proofreading: Centime